

# The British Empire Is Frantic To Eliminate Zimbabwe's Sovereignty

by Douglas DeGroot

The so-called British House of Lords debate on Zimbabwe, held on April 3, was an open declaration of war on the sovereignty of Zimbabwe, because of its years-long refusal to succumb to the Anglo-Dutch financial oligarchy's drive to expand their worldwide empire, under the rubric of globalization. It is noteworthy, that what the Lords and Ladies of the House of Lords said on April 3 (see below), began happening on the ground the following week.

Because their financial system has blown out, the British have no choice but to go all out, creating wars and destabilizations to destroy the sovereignty of nations, and turn them into passive looting grounds. Their situation has gotten so bad, that the International Monetary Fund is demanding that the British empire's banks, hopelessly bankrupt from unregulated speculation, be bailed out. The same IMF, using various pretexts of what it deemed unacceptable activities, has, since 2000, cut off Zimbabwe from any balance of payments assistance.

Lyndon LaRouche has pointed out that Zimbabwe is the tough nut the British have to crack, because of its will to fight globalization against what seem to be insurmountable odds. Once Zimbabwe is broken, they can move on to other countries in southern Africa, with South Africa being the next in line.

The IMF-imposed conditions of economic warfare against the country, stemming from an IMF deregulation and privatization program that was imposed in 1990, and the subsequent IMF-dictated credit cut-off, created enormous suffering for the population. It was under these conditions of demoralization and despair that the March 29 elections were held.

Zimbabwe won its independence in 1980, after a protracted fight, against the Southern Rhodesia government of Ian Smith. Southern Rhodesia had been a British colony. Then, in 1965, a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) provided the British with a pretext not to introduce majority rule in the colony.

After the independence struggle was finally won, the British colony became known as Zimbabwe. The new country became the envy of other Africa countries, who hoped to emulate it. After the new government invested in education and health care, it had the highest levels of skills and education in Africa.

## The IMF Moves In

In 1990, Zimbabwe received an IMF Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) loan. This loan had more con-

ditions attached than normal IMF loans. Zimbabwe was forced to implement every radical IMF policy in the Fund's bag of tricks. To sharply reduce government spending, tens of thousands of workers were fired, the pay of those who remained was gutted, and the government drastically reduced spending on social programs. Taxes were reduced, and the country was opened up to foreign competition, which hit the manufacturing sector particularly hard.

The effects were disastrous. Employment and real wages fell. During the 1991-96 period of the IMF plan, manufacturing employment fell 9%, and wages dropped 26%, according to reports from the IMF itself. Public sector employment fell 23% and wages dropped 40%, while food prices soared by 36%. Meanwhile, the IMF plan did not deliver to the government what the IMF said it would, and the country was caught in a debt trap.

The first decade of improvements in health care, was reversed by the IMF plan. As a result, Zimbabwe now has one of the worst AIDS problems in the world.

For moving to protect the economy by stopping all privatization schemes, the IMF cut off all balance of payments assistance from 2000 on. Three reasons were given: 1) the defensive military intervention into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the IMF said it wanted to stop this adventurism); 2) it didn't like the gratuities paid to war veterans (part of the Zanu-PF political machine); and 3) the land reform program.

These were all pretexts to make loan cutoffs that would wreck the country. On the same day that the IMF turned Zimbabwe down, over the issue that it had sent troops to defend the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), because they said Zimbabwe was too poor, it approved loans to Rwanda and Uganda. Both countries were poorer than Zimbabwe at that point, and both had troops in the D.R.C., who were the aggressors that Zimbabwe and other nations stopped from taking over the whole country.

The Lords and Ladies made no secret of the fact that they must break Zimbabwe, and turn it from a sovereign nation to a satrap. As you will see below, they are talking about getting rid of the government, and bringing the country back into their Commonwealth. The discussion was led by Lord Mark Mallock-Brown, who grew up in Southern Rhodesia, where his father was a diplomat. He is British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Minister of State in the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office, with responsibility for Africa, Asia, and the United Nations. He was made a life peer on his elevation to Brown's cabinet. He specializes in changing leadership of countries in the globalized world, done under the guise of bringing democracy. Sometimes termed "Mighty Mouth" in Britain, he has also been labelled as part of the axis of George Soros, with whom he has worked as a destroyer of national sovereignty. He is also the controller of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who recently negotiated a power-sharing agreement in Kenya, which has broken down again into violence. The Lords and Ladies think they can accomplish their takeover of Zimbabwe with power-sharing there.

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## Documentation

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# British Lords Demand Zimbabwe's Demise

*Britain's not-so-noble House of Lords held a "debate" April 3, on how to dispose of Zimbabwe. The quotes in the following article are taken from the House of Lords Hansard, the official record. The full debate can be found at [www.publications.parliament.uk](http://www.publications.parliament.uk).*

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), **Lord Mark Malloch-Brown**, responded to comments and questions put to him by the Lords. He began by reading **Foreign Secretary David Miliband's** statement of the day before to the House of Commons, which ends, "Lord Malloch-Brown and I have been in touch with Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers in southern Africa, and around the world. There is an international consensus that the will of the Zimbabwean people must be understood and respected."

Later in the debate, Malloch-Brown took it upon himself to define the "will of the Zimbabwean people": "With a leader who has ruled in the way that President [Robert] Mugabe has for the past 28 years, it is impossible to conceive of him winning unless there were a massive effort to steal the election result."

**Lindsay Patricia Granshaw, Baroness Northover**, of Cissbury in the County of West Sussex, emphasized that Zimbabwe is on Britain's regime-change agenda, saying, "We cannot let Zimbabwe slide into chaos. Could the Minister assure us that, even though we have pressing concerns in Iraq and Afghanistan, we will not let Zimbabwe slide down the agenda? How does he think we should balance the claims of those in the old regime?... On the other hand, does he think it better for them to be inside, rather than outside, wishing any new regime ill?"

She continued: "Last year, the FCO gave us a full and im-

pressive briefing on the plans of the international community for a post-Mugabe era. Could the noble Lord [Malloch-Brown] update us on those plans? The *Guardian* reports that 1 billion pounds [actually dollars] in aid is likely to go to Zimbabwe. Can he confirm this?..."

**Malloch-Brown:** "The estimate is that the absorptive capacity of Zimbabwe in these early stages will probably rise to \$1 billion next year... It is expected that Britain will play a major part in providing the finance for that..."

## South Africa's Mbeki Gets His Orders

**Frances Gertrude Claire D'Souza, Baroness D'Souza**, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George: "My Lords... does [the Minister] agree with the view expressed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu that now is not the time for quiet diplomacy, and that every possible and very strong representation should be made to [South African] President Thabo Mbeki at this time?"

**Malloch-Brown:** "The Prime Minister has spoken to Mr. Mbeki and will speak to him again, to re-emphasise the need for consistency in finishing what he began. He can take credit for having begun the change in Zimbabwe. We will press him to be a prominent leader, both in public and private, and ensuring that he finishes that work." [Prime Minister Gordon Brown's meeting with Mbeki occurred on the weekend after the debate.]



*Lord Malloch-Brown, U.K. Minister for Africa, Asia, and the UN*

**Daphne Park, Baroness Park of Monmouth:** "My Lords, does the Minister agree that we have left the decisions too long to SADC [Southern African Development Community]?... I hope that the Secretary of State, who said that he would be approaching the new head of the Commonwealth at the appropriate time, will regard this as the appropriate time. It is a time when the Commonwealth can do a great deal. Those African states are members of the Commonwealth. I do not think that it is right... that one part of the Commonwealth should make decisions for all of it. If the Commonwealth, as a whole, observed the next round of elections, or the next situation, that would be a considerable reassurance to the people of Zimbabwe, who have recognized that local considerations—and African ones—have worked against them in many ways. There can be nothing to stop us bringing in the whole Commonwealth—after all, there are Zimbabweans in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada."

## 'We' Must Have the 'Right People' Involved

**Baroness Park:** "[I]t is extremely important that we have the right people involved in the UN. Unless the present head