

Editorial

Pakistan on the Brink

On Aug. 18, 2008, Gen. Pervez Musharraf resigned as President of Pakistan. The previous November, four days after being certified as the elected President of Pakistan, he resigned as Chief of Staff of the Army. The decision to sever his ties to the Armed Forces was made under tremendous pressure from London, Riyadh, and the Bush Administration.

Lyndon LaRouche warned at the time, that this British-induced treachery by the Bush Administration would destroy Pakistan, and throw the entire region, stretching from the Indian subcontinent through Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia, and China, into turmoil.

LaRouche argued that Musharraf's ouster would weaken the role of the Army as the principal institution holding Pakistan together. It was not just internal pressures for the breakup of Pakistan that LaRouche identified. First and foremost, the move to dump Musharraf was "Made in London." The British, dating back to their 19th-Century "Great Game," sought to create permanent religious and ethnic strife along the "Roof of the World," to ensure the defeat of American System efforts to unite all of Eurasia, Africa, and the Americas through high-speed railroads and development corridors.

The British orchestrated two world wars during the 20th Century to achieve this aim, which some have described as "permanent, managed chaos." At the end of World War II, even though Franklin Roosevelt had died and been replaced by British stooge Harry Truman, the British knew that they could not return to the imperial "mandate" system they had erected, along with French and other European colonial powers, in the aftermath of World War I.

Instead, the British opted for another variation

on their "Seven Years War" strategems: partition. Simultaneously, as British occupation was coming to an end in Palestine and India, London engineered the partitioning of both Palestine and India. From the outset, the split-up of India into India and Pakistan, was pure British chicanery, to assure ethnic, tribal, and religious (Hindu versus Muslim) conflict.

To his credit, after seizing power in a 1999 military coup, President Musharraf sought to solve the Kashmir dispute with India, and to place the military at the nation's service—above the party and feudal fault-lines that had kept Pakistan in turmoil since the Soviet war in Afghanistan (1979-90).

It was that Afghanistan War, and its aftermath, that produced the crisis we face today. It gave the world the Taliban and al-Qaeda, and it turned Afghanistan into a giant poppy field—currently providing up to 95% of the global heroin supply, and financing narco-terrorism worldwide.

Now, that disease has spilled fully into Pakistan, with all of the social and political disintegration that LaRouche warned of, when Musharraf was booted out.

There is no quick fix to the crisis in Pakistan today. It was the product of a 30-year process, led by London, with roots that go back a hundred years earlier. For the moment, the Pakistani Army remains the one institution capable of holding the country together. In a recent interview, Musharraf said that he is in agony over what has become of his country, since he was forced out of power. He offered to help in any way possible. Whether Pakistanis take up his offer and move to reverse his ouster, or whether they find another patriot-in-uniform to bring the nation back from the brink, Musharraf's assessment cannot be ignored, except at great peril.