

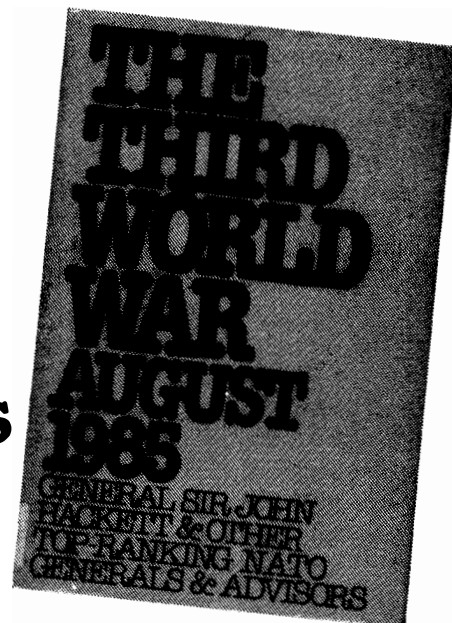
Aquarians on war

A British general plots a brave new world

by Susan Welsh

A monstrous flight from reality is being perpetrated against the American people in the form of the best-selling book, *The Third World War*, by Aquarian General Sir John Hackett et al., just issued in an inexpensive paperback edition, with a movie version in production. Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan presented a copy to President Carter, who now keeps it under the Bible in the Oval Office. When the Carter administration's rescue attempt in Iran failed, General Hackett was interviewed on radio stations throughout the United States, proclaiming that events were now unfolding just as he had predicted.

According to Hackett's scenario, the Soviet Union in 1985 is troubled by the growth of internal unrest within its "empire"—riots in Poland, rumblings in the Central Asian Moslem republics—and by the growing military strength of NATO and of the "China-Japan coprosperity sphere." Moscow decides that the only way to stem the tide of these dangerous developments is to deliver a major strategic humiliation to the weak and demagogic incoming American President Thompson. This Soviet "Bay of Pigs strategy" includes a master plan for the destabilization of the Mideast and southern Africa, with operations in Yugoslavia, India and Latin America as second-level options. But events quickly move out of control of the Soviet planners. Yugoslavia, after President Tito's death, has begun to veer toward a civil war. Three poor harvests in the U.S.S.R. have brought unrest in the Ukraine and Georgia. Sporadic rioting hits Poland and the German Democratic Republic. Frightened, the Kremlin decides to invade Yugoslavia—but Soviet tanks are unexpectedly met by a landing of the U.S. Marine Corps, the first armed confrontation between Soviet and American troops. The Soviets are thrown back.



Moscow decides to launch an invasion of Western Europe with conventional and chemical weapons, aiming for a quick and decisive seizure of the Federal Republic of Germany without use of nuclear weapons. The Soviets calculate that given the disagreements within NATO over use of battlefield nuclear weapons, it would be foolish to force NATO to use them by introducing these weapons first. For if tactical nuclear weapons are used, it would be almost impossible to prevent an escalation to general strategic war, which everyone agrees would be catastrophic for all mankind.

After initial successes, the Soviet invasion begins to bog down, and reinforcements from the United States arrive just in time to rescue embattled Western Europe. This was made possible because between 1979-84, the West began to reverse its long neglect of defense needs, and in particularly Great Britain bolstered its air power. NATO's superiority in electronics and anti-tank warfare, and the inability of Soviet junior officers to take initiative due to their Marxist-Leninist indoctrination, are additional key factors in slowing the Soviet advance.

A bitter debate breaks out in the Kremlin over the "question of nuclear release." Nationalist unrest is increasing in the satellite countries and the Asian republics, which have now seen that the Red Army is not invincible. A faction of "doves" in the Kremlin argues that Soviet use of nuclear weapons is too dangerous since it would invite U.S. retaliation; the Soviet empire is too unwieldy anyway, and the "Russians might be better off alone, without the lesser breeds whom they were finding it increasingly hard to keep in subordination."

But the "hawks" win out, and Moscow launches a single nuclear missile, targeted on Birmingham, England. The Kremlin informs the United States that this is

not part of a general nuclear attack, but is a single strike intended to force NATO to the conference table and to sign a peace treaty. The bombing of Birmingham causes fearful destruction, but fortunately its effects are mitigated throughout the surrounding area by the fact that Great Britain had instituted extensive civil defense and emergency programs in the preceding years, which kept the looting and violence to a minimum.

The United States and Britain retaliate with a barrage of nuclear strikes against the city of Minsk, which is completely destroyed. This sets off the final splintering of the Soviet empire: Kazakhstan secedes from the union, and is immediately recognized by China. The local Soviet commander on the scene, lacking orders from Moscow, is unable to decide what to do. A Ukrainian nationalist cell in the KGB carries out a coup against Soviet President Vorotnikov, backed by the Kremlin "doves" and by a faction in the army which opposes "the dead hand of centralized control of the economic life of the country." A peace treaty is signed, and the U.S.S.R. is carved up into separate states based on "national freedom and socialist principle," as hostile to U.S. multinational companies as they were to Soviet state planners.

Some kind of a nut?

Is General Sir John, former commander of the British Army of the Rhine and of the NATO Northern Army Group, crazy enough to believe his own scenario? Not quite. In an interview to the *Sunday Times* shortly after the book's first publication, he admitted that the story is not a "prediction." A story so frightening that it "makes the children pee in their beds" without mobilizing them to take action to prevent the fearful outcome is simply not useful, he said. That was why the book had to end in victory for the Allied forces; defeat would have been too demoralizing.

The book is not a "prediction," however, only in the sense that the kind of war he describes will never be fought—although the General cannot be credited with fully comprehending this. In another sense, however, the book is a prediction. As in past world wars provoked by the same British "geopolitical" doctrine informing General Sir John's writing, it is not only the Soviet Union that is to be dismembered, but also, and even primarily, the nations of Western Europe, Britain's *primary enemies* in the British view. For that objective of geopolitics, Sir John's scenario is, indeed, a hopeful prediction. In his war, Europe is destroyed.

Sir John has some other specific programs in mind which he wishes to mobilize the populations of Europe and the United States to adopt. Certainly, he wants to see an arms-buildup of a particular sort, the program which meant a NATO victory in his war scenario. Hackett's program calls for the development of air power, chemical warfare capabilities, and certain kinds of "Star

Wars"-style technological gimmickry, particularly electronics. "The Third World War was widely expected to be the first nuclear war—and perhaps the last," Hackett writes. "It turned out in the event to be essentially a war of electronics." This is the notion of military "technology" prevalent in Britain today, and associated with the ultra-secret Aldermaston laboratories, where scientists sift through the technological literature of the world, making sure that whatever anyone else has, Britain has one, too.

Hackett has other obvious goals, such as persuading his audience to accept "emergency" civil defense programs for the abolition of constitutional rule. The American analogue of his program is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which was formed the day before the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island last year, and which removes political and economic functions from elected officials in case of crisis.

Finally, Hackett certainly wants to escalate covert operations by U.S. and British intelligence agencies aimed at the national and religious minorities in the Soviet Union. This is the plan of U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski for creating an "arc of crisis" around the U.S.S.R.'s southern borders, which will lead to uprisings among the Moslem populations of the country.

But Hackett's more fundamental purpose is the creation of schizophrenia in his audience, to undermine their powers of rational judgment by evoking nightmare-like images of war and of the future of mankind. A population brainwashed in this way can be induced to welcome in a new "Aquarian" age, in which nation-states are destroyed, and science and technology remain the closely-kept secret of the kooks of Aldermaston. Hackett uses his own military expertise (including 142 technical military acronyms!), with even a sprinkling of "semi-classified information" to snow the reader into accepting his "scientific" authority, abandoning the reader's own powers of reason.

Take for example the nuclear bombing of Birmingham. This is described in long and gory detail, so as to focus the reader's mind on trivia, away from questions of underlying cause and effect. As a paranoid schizophrenic may become obsessed with a fly crawling on the ceiling of his ward while the building is burning down, so Hackett dwells on the audio-visual effects of the bombing:

The SS-17 missile detonated its nuclear warhead 3,500 metres above Winson Green prison at 1030 hours on the morning of 20 August. Within a fraction of a second the resulting fireball, with temperatures approaching those of the sun, was over 2,000 metres in diameter and reached down towards the centre of Birmingham. The incredibly

brilliant flash which accompanied the detonation was visible in London. Even at that range, individuals looking at the fireball suffered temporary blindness and felt a faint flush of heat on their faces.

The tremendous heat given off by the fireball had a more significant effect upon people and materials within a range of twenty kilometres. Lightly clad yachtsmen on Chasewater about nineteen kilometres from Winson Green felt their skin begin to burn as the lasting pulse of heat from the fireball hit them. The thoughtful ones dived into the water to escape the burning heat. Those who did not suffer blistering burns on all exposed skin. The varnish on their boats bubbled, the nylon sails melted and newspapers lying in the boats burst into flames. Only those who were protected from the pulse of heat by their clothing, or were shielded in some way, escaped severe burns. (p. 374)

Similarly in his discussion of life in Britain during World War III, Hackett draws the reader's mind to the question "how would I personally cope?" Despite widespread panic, looting and mugging, especially in the cities,

It cannot truthfully be said that Britain was ever near collapse as an ordered society, though life in those few weeks was difficult for many, and dangerous for some, while death and destruction were widespread. Much went on as before. The weather was good. In the country the hay was in, the harvest promising. Industry, the railways, coal mining, went on much as before, though North Sea gas was cut off and little oil flowed. Movement was difficult but rationing hurt very few. Food distribution worked well enough, even under the stresses of refugee movement. Cricket was played. People swam, sailed and fished. There was even some racing. The school holidays were not yet over, though when they were very many schools would not reopen in the same place. People still tended to live a large part of their lives with, and through, television.... (p. 323-24)

Who is General Sir John Hackett and what is the kooky "new millenium" he is peddling through his fraudulent scenario? Why would the World War Three he describes never take place? These are the questions we address in the accompanying articles.



Sir John Hackett, imperialist

General Sir John Winthrop Hackett is a British Imperialist in the old style. His career as a young officer in the Middle East in the 1930s was shaped by the British intelligence networks created during and after World War I by Lawrence of Arabia, Sir John's hero. Lawrence, an Oxford University-trained specialist in pre-Islamic cults, was himself a notorious sadomasochist and devotee of the Cult of Isis. He mobilized Bedouin tribesmen into a British-run strike force against the decaying Ottoman Empire during World War I. Later, Lawrence sought to consolidate Britain's hold over the region by fostering an alliance between Zionism and the Arabian families who are the predecessors of today's Muslim Brotherhood, the controllers of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Last spring, Sir John officiated at a ceremony unveiling a monument to Lawrence at the spot in Dorset, England, where Lawrence died in a motorcycle accident in 1935.

Like many high-level British Intelligence operatives, Sir John is a classics scholar with an abiding interest in medieval history. He earned a degree at Oxford for his thesis on one of Saladin's campaigns in the Third Crusade.

He began service in the Middle East in 1933 in Egypt, and in 1936 was an intelligence officer in Palestine. He was attached to Mussolini's Italian Cavalry before Britain abandoned its support for the dictator.

Hackett fought in various posts in the Mideast and Europe during World War II. After the war he became Director of Intelligence in Palestine, and was the last to command the Transjordan Frontier Force before it was disbanded in 1948, with the formation of the state of Israel. He then spent several years studying medieval history, before becoming Commander in Chief of the British Army of the Rhine, and Commander, North Army Group (NATO) in 1966. In 1968 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty the Queen, and soon after, retired from the Army to take up his present post as principal of King's College, University of London.

After Hackett's war: world without nations

General Hackett's *The Third World War* aims to brainwash the people of Europe and the United States to usher in a Brave New World without nation-states, where empires come and go. Beneath the cultivated exterior of this Knight, soldier and scholar there lurks a fanatical hatred of the modern centralized industrial republic.

The Third World War is based on an ideology that cannot incorporate the notions of warfare guiding the Soviets precisely because the book's author is a medieval utopian. The point of interest is not his impossible war scenario *per se*, but that via that scenario, the nation-states of France, Russia, and Germany—whose development ended the medieval world of empires—are destroyed, restoring the world of empires.

This hatred has obsessed the British ruling oligarchy and its international associates since nation-states—and rival empires—first came into being. The British allied with the Confederacy during the American Civil War, determined to destroy the Union which had broken free from British domination. During World War I, Britain's Lawrence of Arabia fomented the zeal of Bedouin tribesmen to destroy the rotting shell of the Ottoman Empire, while British agent Alexander Parvus was similarly deployed to "Balkanize" the Russian tsarist empire.

So, in Hackett's scenario, the "little people" of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Asian republics rise up against the domination of the new Russian Empire. But it is not only the U.S.S.R. which Hackett wants to destroy! His book insists that German nationalism is a continuing threat to Europe, and that even after the defeat of the Soviet Union it would be too dangerous to allow the reunification of Germany. Notably important in Hackett's scenario is that war devastates the economic foundation of the European nations—the primary objective of all British policy since the turn of the century.

The concluding chapter of the book outlines Hackett's vision of the future. With the Soviet Union destroyed, two superpowers will remain: the United States (which retreats into isolationism) and the China-Japan co-prosperity sphere. Europe, no longer the bargaining chip between two superpowers, loses its former strategic importance. The European Economic Community

(EEC) acquires supranational powers, replacing the sovereignty of states "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

A "new concept" of citizenship emerges, which the West German Chancellor calls "triple nationality," but the Prime Minister of Luxembourg more aptly dubs "triple tax status." Given the advanced telecommunications of the future, every well-to-do citizen can live where he chooses, work where he chooses, and belong to whatever state he chooses, regardless of where he lives—provided, of course, that fair tax laws are devised. Once the idea of nationality is sufficiently eroded, "it might eventually be possible for the two Germanies to have a joint unimportant national government."

As the jaded American empire retreats into itself, China-Japan becomes the new center of the world, pacifying the surrounding nations with relative ease since "Japan and China may be more willing than others to 'cure' or 'control' violent individuals with personality-changing tranquilizing drugs."

What role will be left in this Brave New World for General Sir John Hackett and his fellow kooks? Hackett does not answer this question, but why should he worry? After all, it was the British oligarchy that introduced opium into China in the first place, and still controls the international drug trade and the creation of cults which goes with it. They are confident that they will find a suitable position once the rest of us are out of the way.

'Smart little monkeys survive'

The London Sunday Times published Sir John Hackett's thoughts on the coming decade, on Dec. 30, 1979:

The nation of shopkeepers that has become a nation of shop stewards is now losing patience. It is not only that this great movement of ours has made this once-great country of ours the world's laughing stock ... Sensible men on both sides of industry will correct that, and the unions, gently reduced in stature and restored to their proper role, will play a vital part in Britain's recovery.

For recovery is certain....

The real question of the Eighties is how a technological society in which 10 percent of the working

Why Hackett's war won't be fought

If World War Three occurs, it will bear no resemblance to that described by Gen. Hackett. It will be a general strategic war from the start, or nearly from the start, since the vital strategic interests of one or both superpowers will be at stake. Under present United States military doctrines and posture, the United States would be defeated. The Soviet Union is trained and prepared to fight a total war; the United States is not.

Hackett admits that in the Soviet Union "it had never ceased to be widely expected that a major campaign against NATO would probably open with massive attack in depth by nuclear or chemical weapons, or both, to be followed by swift and violent exploitation by formations ... attacking off the line of march." He explains that the Soviets reject the ideas of "nuclear deterrence" and of a

population, working for 10 percent of the time, can satisfy material needs of everyone all the time. It is a matter of education, and we should be taking it most seriously—teaching the 14-year-olds classical Greek, say, so that they can read Aristotle whenever Chelsea or Manchester United [soccer teams—ed.] are not playing.

Now some thoughts from abroad. No world nuclear war so long as nuclear preponderance remains with the military superpowers and both sides retain rough parity. When China joins them in the later Eighties there will be a changed pattern of world power but not necessarily a more threatening one. There will also be a shift of emphasis from Europe and the Atlantic community towards the Pacific before the centre of gravity moves to Africa in the new millenium. By then the U.S.S.R. will long have fallen apart.

What worries me is the uncertainty which, about mid-decade, will follow upon widespread nuclear proliferation. Man, however, though too clever and not good enough, is a sufficiently smart little monkey to bring off his own survival.

"firebreak" between non-nuclear and nuclear warfare; "nuclear and non-nuclear warfare had never been regarded in the Red Army's philosophy as alternatives. Each fitted in as an element in a total war-fighting capability." But Hackett does not wish to "frighten" his readers with the prospects of a Soviet victory, so he insists that, when it comes down to the wire, they will not follow their own doctrine; they will decide that total war is "unthinkable."

Why, Hackett asks, have the Russians been so successful in past wars, against Napoleon and Hitler, but not in World War Three? Because of "three priceless assets," he answers: "unlimited space, apparently unlimited manpower and the willingness of Russians to be led into frightful sacrifice for the defence of the motherland. Now, everything was reversed." The Soviet Union was surrounded by a ring of hostile states, the fragments of its empire. The manpower from these subject territories was not reliable, and loyal Russian manpower was stretched thin by national revolts on two fronts and by the potential Chinese threat.

But the British geopolitician leaves out of account everything that really made the Soviet victories in World War II possible. Stalin's industrialization of the Soviet Union, the development of armor in the 1930s under Marshal Tukhachevskii, the skillful leadership of Marshal Zhukov during the war, in which the nation's reserves and industrial capacities were mobilized for the counteroffensive against Hitler.

So, too, Hackett ignores the real economy of the world today. The West, he simply asserts, emerged from its economic difficulties by the early 1980s, and the "greater national affluence" in NATO countries made possible a rise in military preparedness. The Soviet economy, however, continued to suffer untold problems, the result of its excessive centralization. The West, he claims, has forged ahead in electronics technology and miniaturization, giving it crucial margins of superiority. While admitting that the Soviet Union is more advanced in anti-satellite warfare, laser and high-energy beam technology, Hackett attributes no particular significance to these developments, which could in fact, give the U.S.S.R. the ability to knock American ballistic missiles out of the air.

As to "lack of initiative" of junior officers, this is simply not a serious claim, as any German who fought at Stalingrad could testify. As far as the diverse national makeup of the Soviet Union is concerned, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev delivered a rather explicit warning to Hackett, Brzezinski et al. in a speech early this year: "Let our adversaries remember the lessons of history. Let them know that the unity of the Soviet people manifests itself with special force precisely at times when attempts are made to talk to us in a language of threats."