

Editorial

Freedom from slavery is a human right

The United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, set to take place in Vienna, Austria, June 14-25, highlights one source of the global crisis faced by humanity today. The powers that exert near total control over the U.N.—the five permanent members of the Security Council—have brought the rhetoric of human rights into play to motivate and justify U.N. interventions into the domestic affairs of far weaker nations. After the collapse of the Soviet empire, the allegation of human rights violations by governments in primarily developing sector countries—governments besieged politically and economically—has become the battle cry for an imperialist revival.

The success of this campaign rests in part on confusion in the minds of many between natural law and constitutional law. In short, the Anglo-American oligarchical elite and their retainers, like U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, like to focus their attention and considerable blackmail powers on issues of constitutional law—as the same elite, through the International Monetary Fund and the international banks, consistently and malevolently violates natural law. On the African continent, their violation of natural law results in the death of over 6 million children under age five *every year*, most of them dying of diseases that can be cured for pennies, prevented with vaccines, or that are caused by lack of clean and safe water.

The fundamental premise of natural law is *imago viva Dei*—that every child is born in the image of God and has within him the divine spark of creative reason, which when realized through breakthroughs in scientific and technological progress results in the increase in relative potential population density. The mission of government is to foster the development of that creative reason in each individual, giving the individual the opportunity to develop his capacities to the fullest and for the benefit of humanity.

Clearly, under IMF enslavement, the children of Africa have been written out of this picture.

Constitutional law deals with the organization of government, so as to meet the objectives of natural law.

Whether the organization of such a *republic* takes the form of a democracy, is an issue of constitutional law, and not natural law.

Take the tragic case of South Africa today. The apartheid system, in its overt racism, is an abomination and a violent violation of natural law. Its result is slavery. The black labor force of South Africa and the migrant workers from the surrounding countries who come seeking work, are given a bare pittance for their hard labor. In the hostels for migrant workers in Soweto, for example, men live in crowded barracks with one bathroom for every 100 people—slave quarters.

While the pass laws and other outrages of the apartheid system have been repealed, the focus is now on Nelson Mandela and the communist-dominated African National Congress and its demand for one-man, one-vote black majority rule. But not one word is being said about the *end of slavery* in South Africa. In fact, the De Klerk government's success in forking over \$1 billion a year in debt service and to meet all conditionalities of the IMF has hurled the South African economy into total depression with mass unemployment—unemployment that acts to cheapen the “cost of labor” even further.

How can there be democracy in a nation in which the enslavement of the population continues? Unless South Africa finds a government that is prepared to deal with that question, one-man one-vote will be at best a cruel hoax, and at worst a formula for civil war and mass death.

The same can be said for nearly all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, which have been completely denied the means of technological and economic growth by the policies of the Anglo-Americans and the IMF. Yet, Michael Clough, adviser on Africa to the Clinton presidential committee, says that “democracy” must become the premier objective of U.S. policy toward Africa. Same trick: “Democracy” that does not destroy the IMF is only a “rearrangement of slavery,” to borrow a phrase from the eminent American civil rights leader Rev. James Bevel.