

## Editorial

### *The legacy of Carroll Quigley*

Two days after the Republican election-day sweep of Congress, President Clinton gave the inaugural lecture of a new lecture series at Georgetown University in honor of Carroll Quigley, under whose guidance Clinton studied while attending the university.

Quigley is best known for his exposure of how Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Milner trained a British cadre whose purpose it was to bring the United States back under control of the British crown; he was also a passionate polemicist on behalf of what he termed "future preference." By this he meant what might otherwise be called the American System, as opposed to British oligarchism.

President Clinton has repeatedly recognized his debt to Quigley. We can suppose that his experience studying at Oxford, as—ironically enough—a Rhodes scholar, must have been an on-the-ground laboratory experience of how the heirs of the Round Table grouping are to this day being trained in the tradition of Rhodes and Milner.

In 1949, in his book *The Anglo-American Establishment*, Quigley had this to say about how British politics were run:

"No country that values its safety should allow what the Milner group accomplished—that is, that a small number of men would be able to wield such power in administration and politics, should be given almost complete control over the publication of documents relating to their actions, should be able to exercise such influence over the avenues of information that create public opinion, and should be able to monopolize so completely the writing and teaching of the history of their own period."

Quigley was trained as a historian at Harvard University, which he attended in the 1930s. He first came to Washington, D.C. and Georgetown University in 1941. If one reads the memoir *As He Saw It* by Elliott Roosevelt, one sees that Franklin Roosevelt shared Quigley's disgust with British imperialism. Elliott Roosevelt has stated that had his father lived longer, he would have acted to dismember the British colonial empire. Not so surprisingly then, we learn that Quigley

was a welcome guest at the White House.

During the war, Quigley trained the men and women who would have leading positions in government and the military in the postwar period. He lectured at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, and it was in this period, from these lectures that his most famous book, *Tragedy and Hope*, took shape. The men and women whom he trained then, would shape the postwar occupation in Italy, Germany, and Japan . . . and William Clinton as well.

Clinton has drawn attention especially to Quigley's affirmation of the crucial difference between Britain and the United States—the constitutional commitment of the President of the United States to foster progress which Quigley called future preference.

Quigley has been dead for almost 20 years, but he helped to shape the thinking of a generation of Americans, like Clinton, who in 1964, along with 200 other freshmen in the School of Foreign Service, enrolled in Quigley's course on western civilization. "He left a lasting impression, I think, on every one of us who ever entered his class," Clinton told the Georgetown audience. "And as you have already heard Father O'Donovan say, he drummed into us that western civilization was the greatest of all and America was the best expression of western civilization because of its commitment to future preference, the belief that the future could be better than the present, and that we have an obligation to make it so."

There can be no compromise between the culturally optimistic America envisioned by Carroll Quigley, the America which President Clinton has committed himself to defend, and the barbaric alternative program of those such as Newt Gingrich, who subscribe to the fascist program of the Conservative Revolution. Even Milner and Rhodes were not as outspokenly brutal as Gingrich, who essentially calls for reenacting Jeremy Bentham's Poor Laws. From there, it is but a short step to reintroducing slave labor for prisoners, and for young children unfortunate enough to be born of indigent parents.