

Editorial

The future of NATO

Now that the Soviet Union no longer exists, the question naturally arises: What is the proper role for NATO? Should it be expanded to include central and eastern European countries, or is this an unnecessary challenge to Russia? What about the aspirations of countries such as Poland, which wish for the closest possible identification with the West, for cultural as well as strategic reasons?

This problem arises because NATO is generally being conceived negatively, as an instrument for power politics. This kind of thinking is shaped by the British, who historically have operated on the basis of Venetian-style balance-of-power politics.

According to this model, an alliance among nations is conceived of on the basis of a kind of Hobbesian or Lockean empiricism, in which any alliance is by definition unprincipled—a give-and-take among fundamentally antagonistic forces.

According to this paradigm, NATO, rather than being an alliance based upon a commonality of principle, becomes an arena in which alliances are negotiated among parties which operate upon completely different principles. It is the extent to which the British are allowed to shape NATO, that the future of NATO is called into question and the situation becomes dangerous.

We see this played out in the British approach to the war in the Balkans, where their policy is to use the United Nations forces and NATO to contain Bosnia. They are using their influence over France to re-create the pre-1914 Entente Cordiale as a battering ram not only against Germany, but, this time more explicitly, against the United States as well. Russia is also treated as a pawn in this policy.

Any military-political alliance or common organization, even merely a forum, should be based upon a commonality of principle. The actions of such a body must be in defense of a common principle, or in furtherance of a common principle. If we look at the present Balkans crisis from this standpoint, we see precisely what is going wrong.

The alternative to this is the kind of political alli-

ance based upon constitutional principles which was represented by the 16th-century alliance among the French, the Papacy, and the Spanish against Venice, known as the League of Cambrai. Another instance was the combined support by the Russians and French at the time of the American Revolution, which opposed British efforts to force the republic-in-the-making into submission.

NATO must be conceived of as an instrument for carrying out the development of Eurasia along the policy lines embodied in Lyndon LaRouche's Productive Triangle proposal. Centered upon the industrial capabilities of Germany and France, such a program would serve as the basis for massive infrastructure development projects into eastern Europe. This would be the basis for a multi-nation alliance based on a commonality of interest, which would extend to include the nations of South Asia and Africa as well.

What the British are doing in the Balkans is exemplary of a centuries-long geopolitical conception of strategy which involves manipulating antagonisms among nations in order to reinforce their own hegemony. In the postwar period, this was exemplified by the role of Winston Churchill, which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had countered while he was alive. This was to play off communist Russia and communist China against the West, and also against each other.

This created the possibility for the British to use the balance of power to manipulate one nation against another in furtherance of their own conceived self-interest. This is the essence of the kind of political game played by their self-professed agent Henry Kissinger, and it is the essence of their Balkans policy today.

In the Balkans, the British are showing their true colors, for example, in their attempts to use the possibility of Russian intervention against Bosnia to try to force the United States, Germany, and France to appease the fascist Serbian aggressors.

What is needed is a NATO based upon a principled alliance, which in some form will naturally include Russia and the nations of eastern Europe.