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# Editorial

## A Moral Crisis

“Africa is the conscience of the world, and if we cannot reverse what is going on in Africa, the whole world will not have a chance.”

That judgment was delivered by Helga Zepp-LaRouche 14 years ago, at an *EIR* seminar of African leaders following the genocide in the Great Lakes region. It could just as appropriately have been said at any time during the last century—and certainly hits home today. For the Ebola crisis which is ravaging West Africa, and which threatens the world as a whole, is the direct result of the immorality of the dominant world financial system, which has condemned that continent to death.

Nor does that immorality characterize only the financial institutions, oligarchs, and depraved political leaders. We see that immoral state of mind run rampant within masses of the population of Europe and the United States today, with calls for “closing the borders” and the like. “It’s not *practical* to try to save everyone,” these people say. What they mean is that they are going to stick with the genocidal system that is now condemning Africa, but they refuse to face the fact that it’s lurking just around the corner for them.

Those few doctors who have volunteered to travel to the West African nations to work, provide a useful perspective on the problem. Six front-line doctors from Doctors Without Borders and the World Health Organization, in a Sept. 24 article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, described how the death rate for Ebola can be substantially reduced, by simple interventions such as intravenous catheters, fluids, and electrolyte replacement. Such basic care does not require skilled personnel, they said, although that is needed.

Their judgment was echoed by Dr. Nahid

Bhadelia, director of infection control at Boston University’s National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory, who has reported that, with the application of early hydration and basic care, the hospital she worked in in Sierra Leone had a 60% survival rate—in contrast with a general rate of mortality of 60%.

In other words, *if* governments decided to act to reduce the mortality rate in Africa—where it must be stopped—immediate progress could be made. The resources are available, if the decision were made to use them. And those which are *not* available can be created, if there is the political will.

Here we run into the moral crisis again. Have people today become so depraved that they will not respond to an existential crisis for whole populations of another nation? Are they so stupid they can’t see that mass death such as we see in Africa today is the handwriting on the wall for mankind as a whole, if we don’t change course?

When such a crisis hit Europe in the 14th Century, with the Black Death, the same moral disaster prevailed—as you will read in our excerpt from Boccaccio. But in the wake of that crisis, a handful of individuals searched their souls, began to use their minds, and started a new movement based on a different conception of man, one that recognized the human soul as being in the living image of God, as capable of mastering the universe, and of creating a society based on the imperative of perpetual development, creativity, and love. We call that movement the Italian Renaissance—and its ideas are precisely what we need today.

Either mankind regains that conscience, or all Hell will soon be upon us.