

Brits, Neo-Cons Launch New Imperial Offensive

by Mark Burdman

Now that the American and British governments have declared “victory” in the war against Iraq, the publishing empires of Lord Conrad Black and Rupert Murdoch, the two leading promoters of fascistoid neo-conservative causes around the world, have gone into overdrive to herald the coming-into-being of a new, aggressive, and supposedly matchless “Pax Americana.”

Typical of this propaganda, was an April 13 article in Murdoch’s *Sunday Times* of London, by Niall Ferguson, formerly of Oxford University, now Professor of Financial History at the Stern School of Business at New York University. Ferguson is an expert on the Rothschild banking family, and the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha royal house which, among other things, spawned the British royal family. He has recently gained international notoriety for a book, *Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World*, claiming that the brutal British Empire was a boon to mankind. It was the basis for a British television series, that Ferguson narrated.

In his *Sunday Times* piece, Ferguson exulted that “a major shift has . . . occurred since 9/11” in the United States. “In the most recent edition of *The National Interest*, widely regarded as the Pentagon hawks’ house journal, there are four articles with Empire or Imperial in their titles. The best, by Harvard’s Stephen Rosen, concludes that ‘the notion of American empire . . . might comport nicely with . . . the 21st Century.’ ”

The National Interest was founded, in 1985, by Irving Kristol, founder-guru of the American neo-conservative movement. He and his son William are among the most prominent of the philosophical followers of the late fascist philosopher Leo Strauss, whose pernicious influence has been exposed in the new, mass-distribution pamphlet, *Children of Satan*, issued by Lyndon LaRouche’s Presidential campaign (see last week’s cover story “The ‘Ignoble Liars’ Behind Bush’s ‘No Exit’ War”). A couple of years back, *The National Interest* was bought up by Lord Conrad Black, whose Toronto-based Hollinger Corp. is the foremost international dispenser of neo-conservative, neo-imperial filth.

As per Ferguson’s remarks, the Spring 2003 issue of *The National Interest* has highlighted, as its cover story title, “Empire?” The same issue features Stephen Peter Rosen’s “An Empire, If You Can Keep It”; as well as “Migration and the Dynamics of Empire”; “Imperial Temptations”; and “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of American Capitalism?”

Obstacle: The Strategic Triangle

In his article, albeit in post-modernistic academic jargon, Rosen gets right to the point about who and what the neo-con imperialists see as their real “enemy image” at this present historical conjuncture. Rosen writes: “The central—one may say the necessary but not sufficient—imperial task is the creation and management of a hierarchical interstate order. From that key task of regulating the external behavior of other states, proceeds the imperial problems of maintaining a monopoly on the use of organized military power, and of using its monopolistic but still finite military power efficiently.”

Soon thereafter, Rosen writes: “Today, the picture for the United States is mixed. It exercises effective, if less than formal, hierarchical authority in the Western Hemisphere, in the Asian rimland, on the Arab side of the Persian Gulf and in the NATO area. At the start of 2003, it was trying to extend its hierarchical interstate order to the Balkans and Afghanistan, and was preparing to intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq. China, Russia and India cooperate opportunistically with the United States, but have been willing to challenge American dominance when possible. They certainly reject the right of the United States to intervene in their internal affairs, and thus remain the major countries outside the U.S. hierarchical order.”

Translated into English, Rosen’s message is crystal clear, and will undoubtedly be understood by neo-con fanatics around the Beltway: The impediment to their “Pax Americana” is the Russia-China-India “Strategic Triangle.” This is the grouping that Lyndon LaRouche has identified as the core of the vitally needed Eurasian Land-Bridge economic recovery program. This triangle was also promoted, by then-Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, already back in 1998, as providing the most effective counter to plans to establish a new Anglo-American empire, modelled on ancient Rome.

Rosen is a singular figure in the American neo-imperial, utopian nexus, involved in some of the most sensitive “empire-building” operations. In 1989, Harvard Prof. Samuel P. (“Clash of Civilizations”) Huntington was the founding director of Harvard’s Olin Institute for Strategic Studies. This was funded by the Olin Foundation and other neo-con moneybags. Rosen became the Institute’s associate director. Then in January 2000, when Huntington stepped down as director, Rosen took over. During those years in between, the infamous Clash of Civilizations strategy was launched, out of the Olin Institute base.

Indicative of his influence and policy role, Rosen chaired an extremely important conference, at the Harvard Faculty Club, from Nov. 20-22, 2002, at a time when the preparations for the Iraq war were going into high gear. The event was entitled “Conference on the Study of Religion and Terrorism.” The first panel featured Huntington and Prof. Bernard Lewis, the British Arab Bureau insider who actually invented the term “Clash of Civilizations”; and who is, for all intents and purposes, the architect of the present offensive in the Gulf-Middle East region.

Another panel featured Eliot A. Cohen and Francis Fukuyama, both at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington. Cohen recently authored *Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in Wartime*, the only book that President George W. Bush read last Summer, supposedly in order to stiffen himself for a war on Iraq. Cohen is the author of the phrase “World War IV,” to describe the “post-Sept. 11, 2001 reality.” Fukuyama, former State Department Deputy Director of Policy Planning, is the leading proponent in the U.S. policy structure today, of the ideas of Leo Strauss. Fukuyama’s infamous “End of History” utopian thesis was first published, before its book-length release, by Irving Kristol, in *The National Interest*. The Nov. 20-22 Harvard conference was keynoted by Reza Pahlavi, the son of the late Shah of Iran. Based in the United States, Reza Pahlavi is being promoted by key figures in the neo-con crowd, to be the leader of Iran, following a so-called “democratic revolution” there. Most recently, that was floated by neo-con fanatic Michael Ledeen in the April 12 issue of the British *Spectator* magazine, owned by Lord Conrad Black.

Imperial Dreams and Imperial Cautions

Ferguson advised that the Americans had better be prepared to stay in Iraq for at least 10 years, and to learn from the fact that imperial Britain occupied Iraq for 40 years. He fretted that the Americans are in “downright denial” about what it means to actually manage an empire, and do not understand, but rather resist, the idea that keeping an empire means

fighting the average of one war a year, as the British Empire did in its Victorian heyday. Ferguson also worried that the Americans are now a giant importer of capital, while, by contrast, “the British imperial power relied on the massive export of capital and people.”

These cautions had been preceded, in Murdoch’s London *Times* on April 12, by Andrew Roberts, biographer of Winston Churchill and other leaders of the British Empire. Under the headline “Americans on the March,” Roberts exulted: “The sense of vigor and confidence that the American political leadership has shown since last November is reminiscent of nothing so much as those mid-Victorians who convinced themselves that the British Empire was the foremost force for good in an otherwise debased world.” That “last November” reference conforms to the Stephen Peter Rosen-chaired conference at Harvard.

Roberts then hyperventilated: “If you need a 19th-Century counterpart for the neo-conservative movement led by Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, and Condoleezza Rice, look at the idealistic imperialists produced by Balliol and other Oxford colleges from the 1850s.” According to Roberts, the United States “will not—it almost cannot—stop at Baghdad. An internal dynamic begins to take over.” But, Roberts cautioned, “that is precisely the moment when hubris and nemesis have struck earlier empires.” He, like Ferguson, concluded, that the American imperial expansion might end up crashing, and might fail to fulfill his most cherished dreams.

The Black Lord of The American Empire

The U.S. Constitution forbids the United States from granting any “Title of Nobility,” and bans the acceptance of any “Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State” by any person who holds any “Office of Profit or Trust.”

Lord Black of Crossharbour doesn’t hold elected office, but he exerts more control over U.S. policy than most elected officials. On Oct. 31, 2001, Conrad Moffat Black, Canadian multimillionaire, entered the British House of Lords, “in his robes, introduced between the Baroness Thatcher and the Lord Carrington” and became “Baron Black of Crossharbour.” Wisely, the Parliament of Canada had kicked him out of his seat, for intending to become a British Lord. But Black is not even loyal to Britain; his “vision” is a new Anglo-American Empire.

Black owns a big piece of the Bush Administration—the neo-conservatives who rammed through the Iraq war. Most of them come from outfits that Black funds and/or

owns: *The National Interest*, the Hudson Institute, the *Jerusalem Post*, the London *Daily Telegraph* newspapers, the American Enterprise Institute, the *New York Sun*.

In a Feb. 14 speech to the London Centre for Policy Studies, Black described his “Empire” vision: The United States and Britain must eliminate Saddam Hussein to “avoid a clash of civilizations” and “demonstrate that Saddam’s form of barbarism is a political model it is dangerous to emulate.” Black derided UN arms inspections as “that current farce,” and opponents of the war as “Lilliputians.”

Lord Black called the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648 outdated; and said that after Sept. 11, 2001, the right “of pre-emptive protection against terrorism” must be recognized—but only for the United States. Britain’s role is “being the junior, but influential partner of the United States in modernizing world institutions, alleviating the conditions that breed political extremism . . . [and being] America’s chief associate in crushing terrorists.”

Noting that after World War II, Dean Acheson said, “Britain has lost an empire but not found a role,” Black says Britain’s ties to the United States constitute that role. Together they will redraw the world map, and devise a “trusteeship for failed states.”—*Michele Steinberg*