

What Is Really Behind The Crisis in Darfur?

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Lyndon LaRouche, in his Oct. 31 webcast (see box) exposed the current U.S. *cause célèbre* campaign of “stopping the genocide” in Darfur as an ignorant fraud, which is being used to cover up what is actually being done to Sudan and the entirety of Sub-Saharan Africa. Is there genocide going on in Africa? Yes, there is; but it is not what is being propagandized by Hollywood actors, nor discussed on college campuses as the politically correct issue of concern, nor by government officials. What has been going in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), and is still going on today, is the true face of genocide in Africa, where almost 400,000 people have been dying *every year for the last decade* due to the lack of food, clean water, and basic health care.

There is no doubt that there are ugly and unnecessary killings, and atrocities, taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan, but none of those who profess concern for the people of Darfur have done anything to alleviate the conditions that have led to the current crisis. In fact, wittingly or not, those supporting the “save Darfur” campaign are providing support for Henry Kissinger’s and President Bush’s policy of genocide against the people of Sub-Saharan Africa in particular.

When Lyndon LaRouche and I were in Sudan in January 2001 for a conference on economic development for those countries living along the Nile River system, many Sudanese foolishly thought that they had a friend in the Bush Administration, after suffering the treatment of former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, and her deputy for African Affairs, Susan Rice. LaRouche repeatedly warned Sudanese officials that they should only expect worse treatment from the crowd around the newly installed President Bush. And LaRouche was right! Sudan is now being threatened with a military invasion and/or aerial bombardment in the weeks ahead, as the financier controllers of Cheney and Bush are impelled toward creating yet another failed military conflict.

There is no justifiable reason for such military attacks. Darfur is not the cause for a new military adventure; it will merely be the pretext to have one. The dupes who have taken up the anointed popular cause for Darfur, will find themselves responsible for supporting a new asymmetric war in the “clash of civilizations” that could lead to millions dying in the Horn of Africa.

Genocide in Africa

Henry Kissinger, in 1974, serving as both Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, produced a then-classi-

fied document entitled “National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security, and Overseas Investment.” The fallacious argument put forth by Kissinger et al., which has remained U.S. policy to this day, is, if developing countries with large deposits of valuable natural resource were allowed to sovereignly develop their economies for their rapidly growing populations, the West would be deprived of these needed resources. NSSM 200 dictated to governments that they must reduce their populations, and if necessary, food aid would be withheld as a weapon of coercion.

Kissinger’s policy was a modernized form of 19th-Century British colonial methods, as enunciated infamously by Cecil Rhodes: Get the natives off the land in order to get the resources under the land. Have you ever wondered why there are no strong nation-states in Africa? To carry out the looting of these valuable resources, as is still being done today, governments and nations, which might resist, cannot be permitted to exist. Infrastructure cannot exist, health care cannot be permitted to exist. How does one carry out population reduction, i.e., genocide, today? Through disease, starvation, war; and the withholding of real economic assistance.

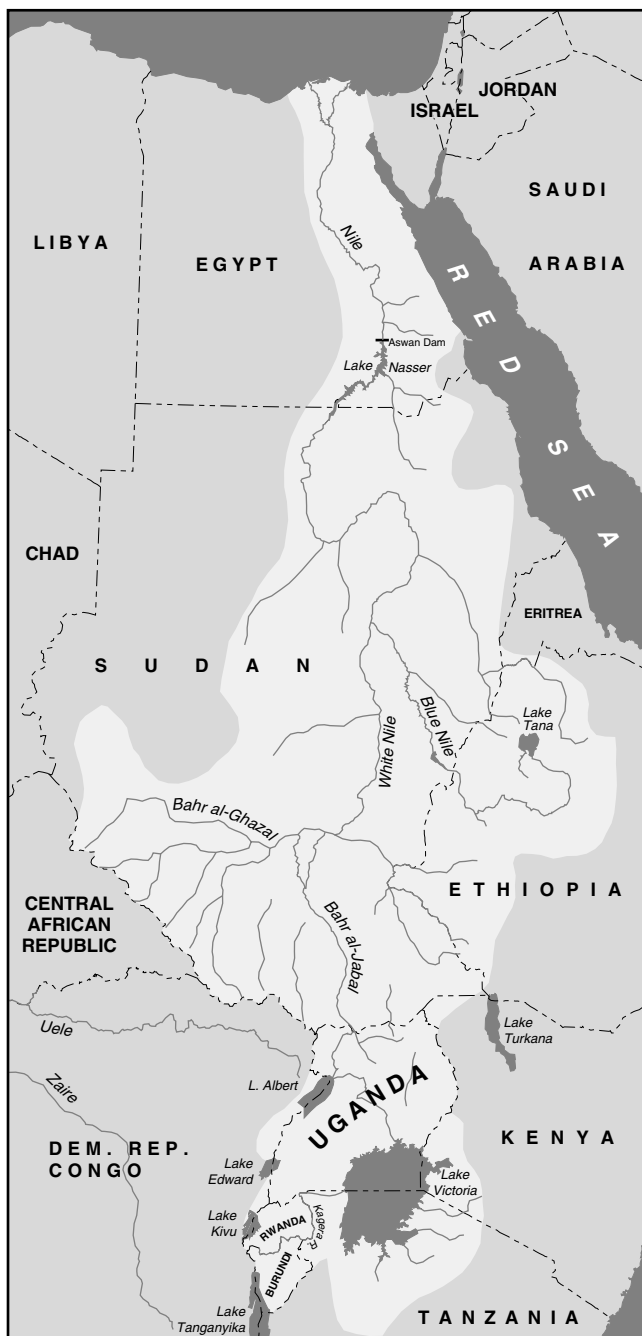
What concern has there been for the deplorable living conditions of the people of Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan—one of the poorest regions in the world, even before the war broke out? None! No one ever discussed Darfur, or knew where it was, before rebel forces attacked government installations in February 2003. For decades the nomadic herdsman and the poor farmers have been struggling to exist in this large arid area, which has been the source of constant conflict, as they fight for scarce supplies of water. To alleviate the source of this conflict would require a program to develop additional billions of cubic meters of potable water for the Horn of Africa, which includes the densely populated nations of Ethiopia and Egypt, along with Sudan. Many thoughtful Africans have come to realize that the next major war in Africa will be fought over water, not oil.

Why Attack Sudan?

Egypt, with a population of 70 million, depends on water from the Nile, which flows South to North, originating in Lake Victoria. In accordance with a 1959 treaty, the 84 billion cubic meters of the Nile are apportioned between the two countries, with Egypt receiving 55 billion cubic meters, and Sudan 19 billion cubic meters. The metropolitan centers of Egypt depend on every drop of that water. A military attack on Darfur would ensure the breakup of the central government in Khartoum, thus voiding the water agreement, which would then lead to the destabilization of Egypt. For over 20 years, the United States, Great Britain, and Israel supported John Garang’s Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), in an effort to foment the division of Sudan between North and South, by manipulating religious differences between Muslims and Christians in line with Samuel Huntington’s “Clash of Civilizations.” The Comprehensive Peace

FIGURE 1

The Nile River System



Agreement signed in 2005 brought a formal end to the fighting between North and South, but the peace is still fragile. Darfur is now being used as the next, and perhaps more effective focal point for the dismemberment of Sudan through a new military campaign against the country.

Upwards of 10,000 African Union (AU) troops have been trying to provide some stability to the Darfur region. It is acknowledged that there are too few troops for such a large

area, and the West has failed to provide the necessary logistics and resources to fully support this effort. With the AU mandate scheduled to come to an end on Sept. 30, 2006, the United Nations passed UN Security Council Resolution 1706 on Aug. 31, 2006, with Russia, China, and Qatar abstaining. This resolution would extend the UN mission in Sudan and deploy 20,600 troops in Darfur with a Chapter VII mandate, which allows troops to aggressively intervene with more military force, than permitted by the current AU contingent they would be replacing. Khartoum correctly rejects this deployment as a violation of its sovereignty and danger to the nation. A compromise was reached, extending the AU mission to the end of the year, now only weeks away. Since UN Resolution 1706 “invites” the consent of the Sudanese government for the deployment of these troops into their country, fools in the Congress and the Executive branch who are calling for such a “full-scale, non-consensual military intervention,” which would be tantamount to an invasion, are in fact advocating war against a sovereign nation, a UN member, and a country that plays a pivotal role in East and Central Africa.

Last month, Rep. Donald Payne, Susan Rice, and Anthony Lake proposed that the United States, with or without the support of NATO, lead a strike against “Sudanese airfields, aircraft, and other military assets. It could blockade Port Sudan, through which Sudan’s oil exports flow. Then UN troops would deploy—by force, if necessary, with U.S. and NATO backing.”

They know not what they wish for—or do they? Such an invasion will trigger new levels of asymmetric warfare, which will escalate the simmering conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia, and reinforce the asymmetric warfare already destroying the nations of Southwest Asia.

Darfur Before It Became a Flashpoint for War

In the months since the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) was signed on May 5, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria, not only has the fighting not abated, but the killings have gotten worse, as anti-governmental rebels ferociously fight each other, murdering the civilians they once claimed to represent. Some say the DPA died the day it was agreed upon, since it was signed by only one of the two main rebel groups, the Minni Minawi faction of the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), which, according to the International Crisis Group, “increasingly acts as a paramilitary wing of the Sudanese Army,” and not by the other, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

To understand the underlying causes of the crisis in Darfur, one has to look at the history of this region, the cultural, economic, and political forces that have interacted to shape the behavior of these poor people trying to survive under the conditions imposed by Kissinger’s NSSM 200.

Contrary to what you may have heard on the evening news, the warfare has not been caused by ethnic conflict, and has nothing fundamentally to do with Arabs versus Africans. As economic conditions worsen, and people struggle to secure their very existence, so-called ethnicities are manipulated, as

groups are set against one another in the struggle to survive. After the severe droughts and famines hit in the 1980s, the previously normal patterns of herdsman and farmers negotiating their access to water, began to change. In impoverished Sudan, which received little meaningful assistance from the West to help resolve the conflicts over water, racial and ethnic bigotry intensified. The continuation of the drought led to increased fighting over diminishing water resources, and as weapons flowed into the area, conditions ripened for the eruption of brutal warfare. Not only in Darfur: Similar kinds of warfare have broken out throughout Sub-Saharan Africa un-

der the extremely oppressive conditions created by the policies of NSSM 200. But the solution to the crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa can never be a military one. Without a state-sponsored investment program for massive infrastructure projects to create more potable water, more gigawatts of electrical power, more hospitals, more schools, and more efficient rail transportation, the conditions for orchestrated deadly conflicts like Darfur will continue.

The immediate danger in the weeks ahead is that the newly elected Democratic members of Congress—even before taking their seats next January—will join a desperate Vice Presi-

LaRouche: Bush and Cheney Plan a New Iraq in Darfur

During his Oct. 31 webcast, leading Democrat and statesman Lyndon LaRouche was asked why he doesn't support military action against Sudan. LaRouche's response, reprinted here, was also issued as a LaRouche PAC leaflet.

First of all, the problem is caused by the United States; the problem of Sudan is caused by the United States. It goes back to the time that, in this case, the current President's father, who may wish to disown the connection, was a Vice President of the United States. And he, with his wife, made a visit to the capital of Sudan, and did some unpleasant things. But he was also involved, as Vice President, in what became known as Iran-Contra. He was a key part in organizing what we call today al-Qaeda, together with the British, because they've got people who are highly religiously motivated in the Arab world, especially in Saudi Arabia, and went to religious people in places such as Sudan and elsewhere, and recruited from Muslim Brotherhood circles, which were religious, people who were enthusiastic for this prospect, which we call al-Qaeda, which was then what the United States organized at the behest of Brzezinski and company earlier, continued by Vice President Bush and by Jimmy Goldsmith of England, and so forth, as what was called the Afghanistan war of the 1980s.

So, in this period, the United States in the person of Vice President Bush at that time, and others, had this grand war going over there, and they used people from the Arab world, particularly religious Arabs, particularly Saudi connections and so forth, to conduct this war in Afghanistan, which we are still experiencing at the present time—what they did then. It was a war on the underbelly of the Soviet Union, which was in a sense a bad idea. We had a better approach to this than they did, to deal with this—the Soviet

Union. So in this process, that happened.

Now, at the time that President Clinton was leaving office—and I think his administration had a very poor comprehension of Africa, in practice. And I think I have a much better comprehension of the problems of Africa—though I'm not perfect on the subject—than he does, still. Though I think his ideas have improved greatly, and I think his Administration served him badly, particularly on the Africa question as in the case of Uganda and so forth; I think he was very badly served by many people in his Administration, in the State Department at that time, and this is part of the problem.

But, I was last physically in Sudan at the end of January of 2001, and I ran into a buzz saw. I was there doing work on the question of water. I'd been there a number of times before. I was very familiar with the problems in the country, and the complexity of these problems, which this problem of Darfur is a reflection of, but a reflection of something else specifically. If you want to deal with the question, you have to deal with it honestly.

First of all, the objective of some people, recognizing that the key to the whole area, from the so-called Lake Victoria (which I think is a name that ought to be changed, to some respectable name), all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, that this area is governed now by a water agreement which involves Egypt, on the measurement of the Nile water. Now, the objective was, the imperialist objectives, were to destroy Egypt. How? If you break the Nile water agreement by splitting off parts of these micro-state creations in this area, then you will break the water agreement, and then what will happen is Egypt will blow up, and the entire Arab world will blow up!

'Bush Is Not Your Friend'

So, looking at these things as isolated human interest things, is a mistake, because it is sophistry; it's ignoring the problem. Now, as I said, I was there in January of 2001. What I ran into was a buzz saw. The Arabs coming out of Saudi Arabia, of Prince Bandar and so forth, told the people

dent Cheney in launching yet another war against an Islamic nation. Cheney's masters are looking for a pretext to create a new asymmetric war as part of their regime change/permanent war strategy. Since some Democrats are more "gung ho" for militarily intervening into Darfur, if more thoughtful heads don't prevail, the Democrats could squander their hard-fought election victory, and end up in their own quagmire in the deserts of Sudan. As LaRouche concluded in his answer to a question, during the Oct. 31 webcast: "People should listen to me, and talk to me a little more about these things, and then they wouldn't make those mistakes."

in Sudan that they had a friend in George Bush, George W. Bush, and the George W. Bush Administration. And I said, No. I said George W. Bush is here to *destroy* your country! He's not your friend. But they said, no, the Clinton Administration made a mess of the place. Bush is going to make it better. And I said, he's going to destroy you. And it happened. It's been destroyed.

Now, this crisis down there is a product of what the Bush Administration has done, and the ignorance on the Africa question on the part of Clinton's own administration. Clinton's own administration made a *mess* of Sudan policy. It was not the cause of the problem, but it made a mess of the whole thing, failing to understand, because of very bad advisors on this question of this area. And, as I said, I think the former President would recognize today that some of his former advisors served him very badly on this question. And this mess is created by Bush, so why don't you clean up the Bush Administration? And then we can settle the Darfur thing.

Yes, it is a problem, but it's a problem which is *orchestrated*. You want to treat this thing, you want to solve it? You're *not* going to solve it, not by those methods. You may think you have excellent intentions, but it's not going to work. You don't understand the area. And you have to understand this area, and not just by intelligence reports, you have to understand the *people*, you've got to understand the *history*. You've got to understand Egypt. You've got to look at what some people thought about *Museveni*. You want to understand the problem in Darfur? Look at *Museveni*! And look at what the Clinton Administration's attitude was on *Museveni*. That's where mistakes were made. And the problem is, the former President has to look at this this way. You cannot be so attached to the idea of doing a humanistic act, that in the course of doing what is ostensibly with humanistic intention, becomes a contribution to a disaster, again. And that's what the problem is.

People should listen to me, and talk to me a little more about these things, and then they wouldn't make those mistakes.