

Indictment of Western Policy Toward Africa

Starvation in Ethiopia— Why Was Nothing Done In Time To Prevent It?

1. The starvation-catastrophe in the Horn of Africa, which has escalated for 16 million people, especially in Ethiopia and Somalia in recent weeks, proves once again that the economic policies of liberalization and structural adjustment, enforced by the International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) and the World Bank, is a complete failure. The Ethiopian government has been implementing so-called “economic reforms” under pressure from the West since 1992, reforms which are also called structural adjustment policies. The government in Addis Ababa has been praised as the new model student of international financial institutions for that reason.

If, after eight years of implementing the recipes of the international financial institutions, eight million people are in acute danger of starving, then the question has to be finally posed, what sense these so-called market-economy reforms have in Ethiopia and other Africa countries. The occurrence of climatically-induced drought in the Horn of Africa is historically known. So, why did Western policy for this region not insist, over the 1990’s, on building the necessary infrastructure to protect the population from the consequences of the climatic cycles, such as the drought, which have lasted for three hundred years?

Instead, the G-7 governments have fanatically held to their policy of globalization, and have thus destroyed the efforts of the Ethiopian government aimed, within the constrained economic possibilities, at the economic development of the country. It would have been necessary to aggressively promote large-scale transportation and water infrastructure, as well as the development of agriculture. **But, Western governments, the I.M.F., and the World Bank insisted mercilessly on the repayment of old debt.** Ethiopia was forced to pay more than \$1.2 billion since 1992. The country’s debt increased nevertheless, from \$9.1 billion in 1991 to \$10.1 billion today. Under such conditions, how is it supposed to be possible for Ethiopia to free itself from poverty and to be able to combat natural catastrophes?

2. The aid, which has begun all too slowly to flow from the European Union (E.U.), the United

States, and the United Nations Organization, will rescue a larger segment of the population, but the question still has to be posed, why our governments again responded too late. The first call of the Ethiopian government goes back to December 1998. The United Nations also warned, at the latest since mid-1999, that millions of people in the Horn of Africa were threatened by starvation. In December 1999 and in January 2000, the Ethiopian government again issued a call for help to the world public.

3. The criticism launched against the Ethiopian government, especially by the sanctimonious media, on account of the tragic war with Eritrea, that it did not do enough to counter the drought itself, is hypocrisy. **For the West is itself largely responsible for the conflicts in this part of Africa, which is due to the fact that the British government and parts of the U.S. government have developed a geopolitical front against Sudan over a number of years, in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.** The sovereignty of African nations did not count in Western policy, but only the potential to influence political leaders in the direction of a strategy of conflict. This policy of the West led to catastrophe in the Horn of Africa as surely as it did in the Congo, in the Great Lakes region, and in Angola. The strict refusal of the current leadership in Eritrea to accept compromises to end the war, is the price paid for this failure of Western policy toward Africa.

4. **We call upon the United States and the E.U., to take the present proposals of the Ethiopian government, to rapidly alleviate the urgent need, seriously, and that they respond magnanimously to the requests.** That would require some \$450 million in the next months for a million tons of food, and comprehensive measures to assure supplies of water and health care. According to the Ethiopian government, the ports of Djibouti and Aden on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden could provide the necessary infrastructure, in addition to the airlift now necessary into Ogaden.

5. People are now dying in the Horn of Africa for lack of water. Just a few weeks ago, people in Mozambique and in southern Africa were drowning in flood waters. **The crucial question in both cases, is why the economic infrastructure of these countries is not capable of protecting the population against such foreseeable catastrophes.** The answer is to be found in

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John F. Kennedy and his policies.

Gibson corrects that error, and knowing what he knows about Kennedy, he is able to take apart the falsehoods spread about the assassination, from the hours immediately following the shootings on November 22, 1963, to the present. This is where Gibson is breaking some totally new ground in the history of the Warren Commission, which he appropriately refers to as the McCloy-Dulles Commission, after the Establishment's two top guns, John J. McCloy and Allen Dulles, who ran the Commission.

Both were bitter enemies of John F. Kennedy. McCloy hated Kennedy's economic policies, and Allen Dulles hated both Kennedy's policies, and Kennedy personally, after he had been fired from his position as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Kennedy dumped Dulles after the Bay of Pigs caper, where Dulles and his Establishment friends had orchestrated an invasion of Cuba by a ragtag team of Cuban exiles—the 1960's version of George Bush and Ollie North's Nicaraguan "Contra" drug runners.

The Anglo-American Establishment

Gibson is able to document, with the records of the 1979 House Select Committee on Assassinations, and documents and transcripts from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, that the investi-

gation of the "Presidential Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy" was *over* before it ever began. The only purpose of the Commission—in the words of President Johnson, in the words of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, was to *stop* other investigations—especially inquiries that were planned by Congress. Establishment boss John J. McCloy put it bluntly, the Commission was to "lay the dust"—end forever—the discussion of the evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

Gibson uses McCloy as a central illustration of the "Anglo-American Establishment's" hatred of President Kennedy's policies. He points out that McCloy hated the same policies in Kennedy's predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and that McCloy had written a memo demanding that all his economic programs be shut down. Gibson hits on a crucial point in the discussion of McCloy; a point similarly discussed in a Strategic Study published in the October 23, 1998 issue of *Executive Intelligence Review* magazine by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and Stuart Rosenblatt. In an article titled "How Our World Was Nearly Destroyed," LaRouche says, "In a sense, McCloy was morally insane . . .," involved in "a wildly utopian, one-worldist project, aimed at eliminating the sovereignty of all nation-states,

including that of the U.S.A." Part of McCloy's evil project was the elimination of Kennedy and his ideas.

Humanity's Ideas

There's an endearing optimism in Gibson's book, demonstrated in his naming the last chapter, "The Beginning." Summarizing Kennedy's lifelong opposition to colonialism, Gibson turns to Pope Paul VI, who became Pontiff "the year that Kennedy was assassinated." Quoting from Paul VI's Encyclical of 1967, "On the Development of Peoples" ("Populorum Progressio"), and then from the 1987 Encyclical by Pope John Paul II, "On Social Concern" ("Sollicitudo Rei Socialis"), which was written to mark the anniversary of Paul VI's work, Gibson illustrates that these were Kennedy's ideas. But not because these were the ideas of the religious leaders of Kennedy's own professed religion, says Gibson, but because they are humanity's ideas. Gibson suggests that it is "probably not possible" any longer to bring J.F.K.'s murderers to justice, but he says what is important now "is that the truth be served. In the process we will serve ourselves, and our descendants. John Kennedy embodied an idea of government, nation, and humanity that is necessary for the future."

Gibson's book serves the truth.

—Michele Steinberg

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the cynical character of the policy of globalization and in the recipes of the I.M.F. and the World Bank. These have robbed Africa of the opportunity for development over the last twenty-five years.

The West also has to face the fact that it has lost its moral credibility in Africa. The main concern is no longer development and peace, but only control and exploitation of raw materials.

6. **We demand that there be a radical change away from the disaster of I.M.F. policy for Africa.** The Africa debt of \$350 billion must be annulled completely. That will only happen in the context of a reorganization of the world monetary system, without the I.M.F. and World Bank. We need government agreements on a New Bretton Woods, a new worldwide monetary system, as the foundation for a new, just world economic order. We need a re-

regulation of world trade, with capital controls and protective measures for the domestic markets of developing countries. Africa must finally get the chance to develop continent-wide infrastructure, without which neither the development of modern agriculture and industry, nor a victory over poverty, is possible. Only a perspective of real economic development which improves the conditions of life of the population, can give hope to the people in the nations of Africa. That is also the condition under which many armed conflicts can be solved, because **peace means development.**