

## Editorial

# *A new feudalism, or new Bretton Woods*

Over the course of the last six weeks, the political forces associated with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche have carried out a mobilization to build political support for a New Bretton Woods system, based on the absolute necessity of replacing the collapsing, bankrupt world financial system at the point of its demise. In this issue of *EIR*, we publish the first sampling of supporters, from among the international political dignitaries who have voiced their support.

But, at the same time that we have been building an alternative system, there has been frenetic activity being carried out by those who wish to save the International Monetary Fund (IMF) system. Totally aware of the fragility of their edifice, the investment bankers, IMF officials, cartel managers, and their mouthpieces have begun to put together plans for *their* survival, at the expense of humanity as a whole.

Some of these plans were laid out at an April 4-5 conference of the "Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee," held in New York City. According to the committee's executive director, Marc Uzan, the purpose of the committee is to "try to manage the crisis," through setting up "a private-sector IMF." There is enormous fear, he said, that there will be a series of Mexico-style crises, and that the current institutions can't handle them. Their solution? To brush aside the role of governments and the government-funded IMF altogether, and set up the kind of private club of investors and creditors which would be modelled on 19th-century British imperialism, in particular the "Council of Foreign Bond Holders."

An even more honest, if dramatic, vision of the system these financiers seek, was presented recently in the new book by Lord William Rees-Mogg and James Dale Davidson, *The Sovereign Individual*. This book, recently excerpted in the London press, "predicts" that private wealth and "market forces" will supersede the nation-state in the coming era, and anticipates "the re-emergence of associations of merchants and wealthy individuals with semi-sovereign powers," who will take

over not only economic functions, but even the military protection of those individuals' properties.

What is envisioned here is, in fact, simply a new feudalism, one under which the nation-state is dismantled, and populations are left at the mercy of private supranational financial powers. It is the end result of the process which the IMF has already begun, by insisting upon the elimination of state protections and industries, and the subordination of all economic policies to "market forces." This is an attempt to reverse the strides achieved by mankind beginning with the founding of the nation-state in France in the 15th century—and it will lead to a dramatic devolution in health, welfare, and population density, i.e., genocide.

Already, we see the implementation of this policy on the continent of Africa. Under IMF "structural adjustment" policies, the power of governments to provide for their populations has been destroyed. Country after country has been forced by the financial authorities to sell off their mineral-producing wealth to private international companies. Governments can no longer support military forces to keep order—so the military function is turned over to private, mercenary armies such as Executive Outcomes, who get paid in mineral wealth. Those regions of the continent which are not considered creditworthy, are simply to be left as *terra incognita*, no man's lands outside the boundaries of the "civilized" global system.

These are the lengths to which the British and banking feudalists are prepared to go, in order to save their system. The genocidal outcome of such a system is predictable, and should horrify any moral human being. Yet, governments and policymakers continue to shrink from endorsing the alternate policy, the New Bretton Woods system, which has been constructed on the workable parts of the postwar economy. Instead, they keep clinging to the sinking ship.

We are running out of time to face reality. Has there ever been a time in which saving humanity did not require acts of intellectual courage?