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## Book Reviews

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# Bestseller compares how Mattei and LaRouche challenged the oligarchy

by Claudio Celani

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### **La Grande Sfida**

by Benito Li Vigni  
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A new book published in Italy compares *EIR*'s founder Lyndon LaRouche with Enrico Mattei, Italy's greatest patriot and nation-builder in the postwar period. The book, already a bestseller, describes Mattei's and LaRouche's projects for a "European Productive Triangle" in opposition to free-market policies, and identifies the British oligarchy as responsible for the assassination of Mattei in 1962 and the political persecution of LaRouche in the United States.

*La Grande Sfida (The Great Challenge)* is the best work ever published on Enrico Mattei. Author Benito Li Vigni is a former manager with AGIP, the oil division of the Italian state company Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), which Mattei founded in 1953. The book has been conceived as ammunition for the current fight to stop the offensive to privatize ENI, an offensive which is part of the British imperial plot to destroy the Italian nation. "It is the fight between LaRouche's ideas and those of his opponents," Li Vigni told *EIR*. The book, released in Rome on May 8, is expected to garner major political reactions.

### **Mattei's fight against colonialism**

Enrico Mattei is the main author of the "economic miracle" which, in a matter of ten years (1950-59), raised Italy from being a predominantly rural country, with all its major infrastructure and industrial capacity destroyed by the war, to the rank of the seventh industrial power in the world. During this "economic miracle," Italy had a net annual sustained growth of 7%, with full employment, fully modernized industry and the beginnings of modernized agriculture, and became

a leading capital-goods exporter. All this was thanks to a dirigistic policy led by Mattei and his friends in the Christian Democratic faction around Ezio Vanoni and Giovanni Gronchi. This group had found inspiration in the dirigistic policies of Franklin Roosevelt, and shared a Christian outlook which, contrary to the "invisible hand" doctrine, sought to reconcile private economic activity with the general interest of society. The group led by Mattei convinced Prime Minister Alcide De Gasperi to turn away from the free-market and monetarist policies imposed by former central banker Einaudi, an internationally known scholar of Adam Smith, and to establish a national fund for infrastructure development, to be led by the state-owned conglomerate IRI and the Cassa del Mezzogiorno, a development fund for southern Italy (the Mezzogiorno), modelled after Roosevelt's Tennessee Valley Authority. Above all, they supported Mattei's decision to have a national policy to ensure an independent and cheap supply of energy, through his establishment of the ENI company.

Soon, ENI became not only an energy supplier, but an agency for infrastructure development both within Italy and throughout the world, especially in developing countries. ENI supplied the Italian industry, concentrated in the north, with a cheap source of energy coming from natural gas (deposits were found beneath the plain of the Po Valley), which Mattei delivered through a dense net of pipelines for industrial and private consumption. Furthermore, ENI built domestic oil refineries in Italy as well as in Africa and the Middle East; built the first integrated modern factory for fertilizer production in Italy, the largest in Europe; and built the first nuclear power plant on the continent in Latina.

Above all, Mattei became the leader of the fight for development of Third World countries, which were struggling to defeat Anglo-French colonialism. Due to the savage opposition by the international oil cartel, to which he gave the name "Seven Sisters," Mattei was never able to get

oil-drilling concessions himself; whenever he reached an agreement with a producing country, the deal was sabotaged, by measures that included overthrow of the host government, as happened in Libya. Each defeat, however, pushed Mattei to fight even harder against the cartel. Mattei understood that, although five of the Seven Sisters were American, and that, often, the U.S. government had supported the cartel policy, the latter, at least, would change under President John Kennedy, who embodied the true character of the United States, which Mattei admired as deeply as he despised the oligarchy.

Therefore, he undertook a strategic political initiative which was set to be formalized in November 1962, in Washington, Paris, and Algiers. Mattei had succeeded in outflanking the British oligarchy and striking a deal with envoys from President Kennedy, France's President Charles de Gaulle, and with the leadership of the newly liberated Algerian nation. The plans included collaboration among the state companies of Italy, France, Algeria, and Germany to build a 1,100-km-long pipeline to bring African gas and oil to continental Europe, and a parallel deal with the largest American oil company, Exxon, favored by the Kennedy administration, to break the British-dominated cartel, once and for all.

### **Relations with the United States**

The deals had not been easy. Mattei's image in the U.S. government had been tarnished by years of slanders from pro-British State Department officials. In a secret State Department paper on "Italian development" dated Sept. 3, 1957, for instance, Mattei was characterized as "a threat to American foreign policy objectives." "Although he is head of a state agency, and, therefore, theoretically subject to the control of the Italian government, in reality, he uses his enormous economic power, blackmailing and corrupting, to intimidate the Italian government by threatening proper democratic functioning in the country. . . . By invading the chemical and nuclear sector, he uses part of ENI's income for acts of political corruption."

The slander that Mattei was a purveyor of "corruption," is one of the many which the British oligarchy and its lackeys noised about him, and is related to his decision to launch the newspaper, *Il Giorno*, to defend ENI from hostile campaigns. Giovanni Galloni, a pro-Mattei politician within the Christian Democracy, explained: "Mattei was not instinctively a great corruptor as some today describe him. He was engaged in a tremendous battle against the Seven Sisters, a fight against the most powerful economic groups in the world . . . which had a sounding board in the American press, which dominated the Italian press." Another slander was that he was "pro-Communist" or "neutral," i.e., anti-American. Li Vigni demolishes such lies, documenting how Mattei's actions and policies were precisely the opposite.

For instance, the attack on him as a "neutralist" stemmed

from his criticism of NATO policies, to the extent that such policies were dominated by the Anglo-French "Entente Cordiale," and they took on greater stridency when Mattei decided to purchase oil from the Soviet Union, after the Seven Sisters practically shut him out of the Mideast market. But, Mattei was never sympathetic to communism nor did he toy with the idea of breaking with the United States. Typical of his policy, was his conduct during the 1956 Suez Crisis, in which merely the threat of U.S. military intervention convinced London and Paris to stop their colonial aggression against Egypt. Li Vigni describes how Mattei took the opportunity to develop a policy proposal that was, in some form, forwarded to Washington:

"[Italian President] Gronchi had stated that Italy could have played a very interesting role in the Mediterranean, to the benefit of the whole western world. For his part, Mattei, sharing this approach, had said that Italy would have been able to help its allies, including the United States and France, in the attempt to find a rational solution to the Middle East question, which at that moment seemed hopeless. He had stated that the French would no longer be able to maintain their position in North Africa [i.e., the Algerian colony], and that the British had a bad image. He wanted to specify that, although viewed with less hostility than British or French intentions, American intentions were viewed with suspicion, a suspicion which Arab countries did not have toward Italy, from which they accepted advice and assistance without reservation."

It was entirely thanks to Mattei, that the Arab nations were so amicable toward Italy. Over the years, Mattei had derived a revolutionary approach to relations between a western company and the oil-producing countries. In 1954, he had discussed with the Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, a deal in which ENI offered a 75-25% division of profits from oil findings, versus the Seven Sisters' stingy 50-50. In addition, the Italian oil company would train Egyptian technicians, providing them Italian know-how. This formula was then applied with Iran in 1958, when Mattei succeeded in receiving a limited concession to drill for oil. His efforts notwithstanding, the Seven Sisters persistently sabotaged him, and Mattei never succeeded in winning major drilling concessions, until the Algerian deal, shortly before his death in 1962.

After the Suez Crisis, Mattei's efforts to involve the United States in an organic anti-British policy in the Mediterranean were rejected. Li Vigni reports on a document from the State Department, dated Jan. 10, 1958, which referred to Mattei's proposal as "neo-Atlanticist," and lyingly mischaracterized it as a proposal to replace British colonialist ambitions with Italo-American ones: Mattei, Gronchi, and Nasser agreed on the fact that Italy "should assume a role in the Near East comparable to the military and political position formerly played by Great Britain in Egypt."

## The shift with Kennedy

After French companies had discovered the large oil field in the Algerian Sahara region of Hassai Messaud in 1956, Mattei thought that the fields may extend as far as the bordering region of Fezzan in Libya. At that time, everybody thought that Algeria would become the big producer of the future, and nobody expected that that title would go to Libya instead. Mattei moved quickly and obtained from Libyan Prime Minister Mustafa Ben Halim a concession in Fezzan. But “the U.S. State Department intervened directly with King Idris to ask him to cancel the agreement with ENI and transfer to another company the concession assigned to the Italians. . . . That the pressures had achieved the desired result, became clear when Abdul Majid Kroobar, replacing Mustafa Ben Halim as premier, did not ratify the agreement with ENI and communicated that to Mattei through the embassy in Rome.” Drilling in the Fezzan field was handed over to a subsidiary of Texaco.

According to Li Vigni, this episode pushed Mattei to declare all-out war against the Seven Sisters, which, in his perception, held a stranglehold over even U.S. foreign policy. Mattei told the *New York Times* in an interview published on Jan. 6, 1958: “The United States interests are trying to block Italy’s access in the Sahara oil region. The Americans pulled a nasty trick against Italy, excluding it from any activity in Libya. But they are wrong, if they think they can bend our will to seek energy resources at the lowest possible price. Let it be very clear that we will grab every opportunity that is offered to us. The need for hydrocarbons in Italy is constantly growing, and the hostility of well-identified interests will certainly not prevent our people from attaining a higher and higher degree of economic independence.”

An outstanding feature of Li Vigni’s book is that it shows that, despite the aggressive tone against “United States interests,” Mattei was far from anti-American. He constantly sent “emissaries and signals intended to let it be known that he was available” to open negotiations. Li Vigni quotes diplomat Egidio Ortona, who says that, as early as 1955, “Mattei . . . spoke to me about the necessity to establish friendly relationships with the Americans. . . . He was very anxious to deepen the knowledge of that environment. . . . Mattei did not like to be considered anti-American, and he was not; he was a person who silently admired the Americans for what they had achieved, but he did not want, on the other side, to be dominated by them.” And, Mattei was no chauvinist: “He was concerned with promoting a sentiment of legitimate patriotism; something different from a sort of ‘nationalism’ which presupposes a component of aggressive claims or a sort of ‘imperialism’; he coherently loved his Fatherland, whence his commitment to create an independent national agency, able to evade the monopolistic control of the large multinational companies.”

According to Li Vigni, under Kennedy, United States for

the first time had an ambassador to Italy, Reinhardt, who showed an independent judgment and seemed to understand Mattei. He actively promoted what Mattei wanted, that is, an agreement with a major U.S. oil company and a political recognition of Mattei from the U.S. government. “From the secret documents of the American State Department and from the classified documents of the Rome embassy in that period, there emerges a clear determination for reaching an agreement with Mattei, and favoring, from a political standpoint as well, a constructive and friendly climate. Some large corporations were given responsibility with the technical and trade aspects of the agreement.”

Mattei met Averell Harriman and George Ball, as U.S. envoys, and both meetings had a positive result, according to Li Vigni.

The British relationship was another matter. London’s Foreign Office hostility escalated from a policy of “non-interference” with the oil cartel, to an active policy of containment, characterizing Mattei and “Matteism” as a strategic danger. “In a confidential report of July 19, 1962, the Foreign Office charged: ‘Matteism is potentially very dangerous for all the oil companies which operate in a context of free competition. State support in trade, negotiations based on exchange of goods between the parts (as in the agreement with the U.S.S.R.), attacks on prices, could damage other major trade sectors, aside from the oil sector. It is no exaggeration to state that the success of ‘Matteistic’ policy represents the destruction of the free oil system throughout the world. In this situation, international oil companies have every right to defend themselves from Mattei’s propaganda attacks.’”

These and other papers that Li Vigni reports are of extraordinary importance. They document that the British oligarchy considered Mattei’s success (the breakthrough he was preparing with Kennedy) a *casus belli*. The Foreign Office knew that should Mattei’s American strategy succeed, combined with a success of his negotiations with de Gaulle on the Algerian deal and the European pipeline, they would face a combination that would destroy the British colonial system at long last. On these two fronts, Mattei had indeed succeeded:

1. “On April 5, 1962, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk approved a strategy that, aiming at the definitive recognition of Mattei’s role in Italian politics and in the international oil industry, encouraged one or more western oil companies to strike a deal with him. The strategy dictated as well that, in order to reach an agreement with the ENI president, favor was to be given to the Italian participation in advantageous oil operations, such as benefitting from oil fields and trade channels of the Seven Sisters in the Middle East, in Africa, and everywhere possible, intended to create alternatives to Soviet supplies. Eventually, once the collaboration was established, Mattei would be invited to the U.S. and would be honored (the idea was to receive a degree *ad honorem* from Stanford

University and a meeting with Kennedy, which Mattei had demanded), so as to convince him of the full political recognition from the American authorities.”

2. “Now that Algeria had won recognition [in March 1962] for its independence, [Mattei] suggested a three-way agreement—France, Algeria, Italy—according to the formula he preferred, a deal among state industries. Contacts were made with the participation of a high French official, Claude Cheysson. . . . The French and the Algerians thought that, together with Mattei, they could build an intercontinental pipeline that, starting from the rich gas fields in the Sahara, via the Strait of Gibraltar and Spain, would reach France and Italy. They also thought that this first project could be followed by similar initiatives to involve other Third World countries. . . . The agreements were to have been ratified in the meeting with [Algerian leader Ahmed] Ben Bella on Nov. 6, 1962, and completed by a French-Italian agreement, for Mattei had already scheduled a mid-November visit to Paris.”

On Oct. 21, the agreement between Exxon (Standard Oil) and ENI, according to the proposal in Dean Rusk’s memorandum, was signed. The next phase would have been Mattei’s visit to the U.S. and a meeting with Kennedy.

Mattei died on Oct. 27, 1962.

### **Mattei and LaRouche**

In addition to the French-Italian-Algerian pipeline, Mattei had already planned and started to build a 1,100-km-long pipeline from Genoa to Ingolstadt, Bavaria, and had opened the first AGIP gasoline stations in the heart of enemy territory, in Great Britain.

“In February 1962, at a conference held in Rome at the Foreign Press Association, Mattei said: ‘We think there are enormous development potentials for our country, which would forever wipe out the image of a traditional Italy, poor and merely agricultural. We have immense development potential in the Mediterranean, in Europe, in Africa, in the Middle East. In our relationships with depressed countries, with countries that need to begin industrial development, we believe we can offer an industrial organization with trained personnel and means, and, therefore, can undertake major collaboration. In this way, our work can be useful to the whole West, to which we belong. But we think that within the West as well, collaboration is necessary, and not, as is often the case, an all-out war, no holds barred.’”

“These words reflected the importance given by Mattei to the role of infrastructure as driver for economic development in one or more nations. Not only bridges, roads, railways or pipelines, but also social services, that is, schools, research centers, education and labor skills, medical centers, and so on. In essence, infrastructure is the indispensable factor to attain an economic ‘density’ to allow the birth of new, high-intensity capital industries. The state would take

a more or less direct role, in sectors whose productivity shows over the long term, in new sectors with very high technological levels. Within this conception of development in more than one nation, particularly significant is Mattei’s commitment to building the pipeline between Genoa and Ingolstadt, and to the great projects of the last period: the Algeria-Sicily gas pipeline, which would have crossed Italy, and the Trieste-Ingolstadt pipeline, which could have been connected in the future with the Soviet Druzhba pipeline in Eastern Europe.

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*Li Vigni writes: “Lyndon LaRouche ended up in jail because he tried to lead a movement for that economic recovery which Mattei had earlier tried to implement. He had proposed a development project to put the East-West relationships on new bases, on the idea of ‘peace through development,’ at the moment when, with the fall of communism, the Yalta order was over.”*

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“With the implementation of this great project, the solution of a ‘European Productive Triangle’ was presented, to include, in addition to Italy, de Gaulle’s new France, freed, in 1962, from its colonial past at the end of the Algerian War, and Adenauer’s Germany. This solution was the premise for a joint development of continental Europe, starting from Western Europe. What above all united Italy, France, and Germany, was the firm commitment to respect national sovereignty and cooperation among sovereign fatherlands, as well as the deep conviction that Europe had the moral obligation to use its privileged status to develop the Southern Hemisphere.

“According to a geopolitical view essentially similar to Mattei’s program for Central Europe, American economist Lyndon LaRouche in 1989 launched an attack on the free-market ideology, elaborating a policy diametrically opposed to the International Monetary Fund. He was the first to identify the historical significance of the collapse of the communist regime in the Soviet Union, stating that the whole Yalta system had come to an end, a system created with the idea of keeping Europe divided, to ensure the hegemony of the two superpowers. In November of that year, LaRouche presented his program for a Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle as the kernel for a broader infrastructural program for all of

Europe, from East to West. That policy mirrored the idea for a national development bank for each country, in order to sovereignly generate credit for a European infrastructural program.

“LaRouche’s program was broadly debated during an international conference, held in Milan in November 1992, to commemorate the work and the figure of Enrico Mattei, organized by the Schiller Institute and by the German magazine *Executive Intelligence Review*. They spoke about the ‘Productive Triangle’ from which development corridors would take off, from Berlin to Warsaw, from the Baltic to St. Petersburg, to Moscow, to Kiev, down to the Balkans, and other corridors down to Sicily, into the Iberian peninsula as a bridge to Africa. Through an integrated system of high-speed trains, waterways, and roads, through the production and distribution of advanced energy, a single market of 500 million persons would be created, to act as a locomotive to get out of the world economic depression. Lyndon LaRouche ended up in jail because he tried to lead a movement for that economic recovery which Mattei had earlier tried to implement. He had proposed a development project to put the East-West relationships on new bases, on the idea of ‘peace through development,’ at the moment when, with the fall of communism, the Yalta order was over. Mattei was working for a project for potential European collaboration among Italy, France, and Germany, respecting national sovereignty, and disrupting the Yalta order based on the idea of a divided Europe, subject to the two superpowers. A project that broke the ‘continuity’ of the system of domination in Europe, run by the major international monopolistic groups. History has unfortunately taken the opposite direction.”

### Mattei’s death

Enrico Mattei died Oct. 27, 1962, between 18:58 and 18:59, when his ENI Morane-Saulnier jet exploded over a small city near Milan, as he was coming in from Catania in Sicily. At 18:57, Mattei’s pilot, Imerio Bertuzzi, communicated to the Milan control tower that he was making his final approach, and would be landing in one and a half minutes. Witnesses saw a mid-air explosion; within a few minutes, the ground was littered with debris from the airplane. An investigating commission, chaired by Air Force generals, established that the airplane had crashed on the ground and then exploded. The commission did not even consider the possibility of sabotage. Soon, those same witnesses who had seen the mid-air explosion, changed their line. The journalist who had collected their reports soon became very successful, and eventually became chief editor of Italy’s leading daily. Later, his name was found in the membership list of the famous P-2 secret masonic lodge, which a Parliament committee found at the center of a conspiracy to overthrow republican institutions.

Li Vigni offers much evidence to demonstrate that the

plane crash was no accident, some from already-published material, some the result of his own investigations. “Commemorating Mattei on the 20th anniversary of his death, [former Premier] Amintore Fanfani said: ‘Maybe, the destruction of his plane was the first terrorist act in our country, the first act in a plague that has persecuted us.’ ”

Li Vigni stresses the role of *EIR* in the effort to re-open the Mattei case: “In support of the hypothesis of sabotage, among the others, are the Schiller Institute and *EIR*, which in November 1992 organized a conference in Milan . . . where all participants (Italian and foreign journalists and economists) issued a call to the President of the Republic to re-open the Mattei case.” Li Vigni notes later that “In the summer of 1995, Pavia prosecutor Vincenzo Calia re-opened the investigation, taking everything into account, and confronting one of the most intricate mysteries in Italy’s republican history.”

Contrary to the existing literature on Mattei’s death, which at best accuse “the Seven Sisters” of killing him, Li Vigni is more accurate, and points the finger at the control apparatus behind the oil cartel: the City of London:

“There is a characteristic of Mattei’s death, seen as murder, whose connections could lead to a conspiracy, in which chunks of the American parallel intelligence structure worked in league with organized crime, and on behalf and under control of British secret services and the British oligarchy. This hypothesis was debated during the [*EIR*-Schiller] international conference . . . and would lead to the notorious Carlos Marcello, the powerful Italo-American mafia boss in New Orleans, who had been seen in Catania, two days before that tragic Oct. 27, 1962.

“What was Carlos Marcello doing in the Sicilian city that day? Only a strange coincidence? The question grows when one recalls that Marcello was one of the largest shareholders of United Air Taxi, for which pilot David Ferrie worked. Ferrie and United Air Taxi were engaged, among other things, in illegal weapons traffic for Clay Shaw’s International Trade Mart and Permindex; it was those same people and the same British intelligence structure involved in the assassination of President J.F. Kennedy.

“Former colonel of the American secret services, Fletcher Prouty, the famous ‘Mister X’ in Oliver Stone’s movie “JFK,” speaking at the Milan conference, has pointed to the same strategic interests as responsible for the Kennedy and Mattei assassinations. Kennedy had become more and more energetically independent, out of the control of the Anglo-American oligarchy. Mattei had succeeded in deeply shaking the imperialistic system of the Seven Sisters’ oil cartel, that is one of the world power centers of the same oligarchy. ‘Kennedy and Mattei,’ said Prouty, ‘were not accidentally killed.’ ”

Li Vigni supports the *EIR* thesis: “It was evident that Mattei, strengthened by the full political recognition which would have been solemnly established with the scheduled meeting with J.F. Kennedy, would have increased his political

influence, especially had Italy taken a center-left turn, a turn strongly opposed by those political sectors, even inside his own party, which feared and fought Mattei's 'counterpower.' The Algiers oil deal, which Mattei was supposed to sign with Ben Bella on Nov. 6, 1962, was part of a vast energy and infrastructural project for Western Europe, linked to North Africa and Eastern Europe. An agreement of enormous strategic importance, whose potentiality was strengthened by the French policy shift imposed by General de Gaulle.

"The convergence of the United States, France, Germany, and Italy in a strategic perspective of economic development would have isolated and definitively defeated the center of colonialism, establishing an era of stability without precedent. It was clear that the realization of these great objectives represented a danger, threatening in depth the power of the international oil cartel which had in London, in British Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell, its strategic and decision-making center."

### The 'New Silk Road' perspective

Had Mattei lived to see his strategy succeed, his plan would naturally have evolved into what Lyndon LaRouche calls today the "Eurasian Land-Bridge" policy, or "the New Silk Road": the cooperation with China in building modern infrastructure corridors to extend a "land-bridge" connecting the Atlantic to the Pacific and Indian Oceans. This is more than speculation: Mattei had already made the first steps to involve China, pioneering western collaboration efforts with Beijing. At that time, Maoist China was on the brink of the regressive "Great Leap Forward," pushed by radical anti-Confucian factions, which resulted in terrible devastation of its agricultural and industrial capabilities, and in the deaths of millions.

When Mattei opened contacts with Beijing in 1958, China was totally isolated, as a result of Anglo-American geopolitics and nearing its break with Russia. His initiatives, hooking up with pro-western circles in the Chinese party leadership, had the potential to break that isolation and "bring China into the 21st century." On his first Beijing trip in 1958, Mattei met Foreign Minister Chen-li, and had a favorable impression, reported by a witness: "If the Russians do not weaken, the Chinese will surpass them," he said, meaning economic cooperation with the West. Three years later, ENI's "foreign minister" Giuseppe Ratti was sent to Beijing to sign a deal, by which ENI started to supply fertilizer and capital investments, at exactly the point when the radical Maoists were pushing a complete abandonment of the modernization of agriculture.

In 1971, Chinese leader Zhou Enlai would say of Mattei: "He was a great friend of the Chinese people. He came often to visit us in difficult years. . . . He was really a great friend; he has been one of the first western representatives to believe in China and to have confidence in it."

## Sudan breakthrough: winning the peace

by Muriel Mirak Weissbach

On April 21, in the capital city of Khartoum, the government of Sudan signed a peace treaty with the majority of the rebel factions that had been waging war against the central authority since 1983. The treaty, signed in the presence of foreign dignitaries, international organizations, and press, signals the end of a period of strife which has not only divided the country, but bled it of its resources, especially its most precious resource, its people.

The document signed by five rebel factions, formerly associated with Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) faction leader John Garang, is more than an agreement to cease hostilities; it is more a blueprint for a common strategy to overcome and eliminate the root causes of the war (see *Documentation*).

The Sudanese civil war, from the time of its outbreak in 1983 to last year's initial agreement on the principles of a treaty, has been orchestrated by the British, who, while withdrawing from Sudan after it gained its independence, threw a hand grenade, so to speak, over their shoulders, to keep conflict alive. Since it was rekindled in 1983, and, especially since, the current government of Gen. Omar al-Bashir took power in 1989, the British have accelerated their commitment to the southern rebel forces, and, over the last year, have deployed military and political forces of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda, under one unified command, in a bid to overthrow the government. John Garang is their remaining "rebel" asset, in what has become increasingly obvious as an imperial war of aggression by Britain against the nation.

Notwithstanding this dominant British role, there have been real grievances felt by the people of southern Sudan, grievances in large part inherited from the British colonial period, when London followed a policy of divide and conquer, imposing an artificial line between north and south, preventing any communication between the two populations, and imposing strict divisions through language, religion, and tribal distinctions. Since independence, through continuing military insurrection, and artful psychological manipulation using non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the British have succeeded in maintaining and exacerbating these differences.