
Editorial

‘Knew or Should Have Known’

In the post-World War II trials of Nazi criminals at Nuremberg, a standard for truth and morality was set, that today’s potentates of finance, in particular, are very anxious for us to forget. That standard is the “knew or should have known” criterion, applied to those policies which today are creating a chilling repeat of *genocide* across southern Europe, fully comparable to that carried out by the Nazis more than 70 years ago.

Today, as then, this policy must be identified for what it is, and stopped by the same force which was crucial for crushing Nazism, the United States.

Voices are being raised throughout Europe against this reality of the genocide being carried out in Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, and Spain. Take just three:

- On April 27, Cephass Lumina, the United Nations Human Rights Council’s expert on foreign debt and human rights, issued an interim report on the situation in Greece, which he had been assigned to inspect. “[Human] rights ... are under threat or being undermined by harsh pro-cyclical policies—austerity, labor reforms, liberalization and privatizations—that the government has been constrained to implement since May 2010,” he said. The result is a “contraction of the economy and significant social costs for the population, including high unemployment, homelessness, poverty, and inequality.”

- Even sharper are the preliminary reports on a book-length study coming out May 21, entitled “The Body Economic: Why Austerity Kills.” Based on studies in Europe and North America, the authors report on the deadly increase in suicides, disease, and drug abuse, resulting from the austerity measures being imposed on both sides of the Atlantic, but especially in Greece.

- Then there’s Portuguese Socialist Party leader Manuel Alegre, who, in an article published March 26 in *Jornal i*, likened Southern Europe to a concentration camp, being impoverished and enslaved by the financial powers dictating policy throughout all of Europe. It’s only a matter of time before we are *all* victims, he says—despite the illusions some Europeans have.

Those very illusions, of course, are rampant in the United States. The skyrocketing unemployment, suicides, disease, homelessness, are “over there,” and “not our problem.”

But, just as in the 1930s and World War II, that view is either an illusion or an outright lie. The very powers, centered in the British financial empire and its Queen, which are demanding the blood of millions of Europeans in order to keep their system alive, are not going to stop there. They are eating up the victims, and will soon need others, and that emphatically includes us here in the United States.

We have already seen the Nazi principle in action here, with the Obama “health” plan, which demands that helpless Americans give up “useless” care in order to “cut costs.” We see it in the violation of Constitutional separation of powers, in kill lists, in heartless and incompetent austerity against the poor. This is leading to genocide; the financial empire knows it, and others should have known.

The solution is difficult, but simple: Crush the financial empire that is behind the genocide. How to do that efficiently and effectively? The unique solution is to reimpose Glass-Steagall in the U.S., an act which will wipe out the power of those murderous bankers, thus saving Europe, the United States, and the rest of the world.