

# British Surrogates Lose Zimbabwe Election

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Prime Minister Tony Blair's Liberal Imperialists and their supporters among the U.S. neo-con "regime change" faction were soundly defeated in the Zimbabwe Parliamentary election held on March 31. The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), founded, funded, and deployed by the British, and led by Morgan Tsvangirai, lost 16 seats in the national vote, leaving them with just 41 elected representatives in the government. While Tsvangirai claims that he would have won 90 of 120 contested seats if the election had been fair, there is no documented evidence of fraud on that scale.

The MDC is now left in disarray. With a 25% loss in political representation, the Tsvangirai leadership will certainly be challenged. With this disappointing showing, after years of preparation, it is not clear whether their British masters will consider them viable tools any longer for their long-intended regime change of President Robert Mugabe. The Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) increased its representation to 78. With President Mugabe free to pick an additional 30 seats, the ZANU-PF will now control the Parliament, with a 72% majority of 108 seats out of 150.

Unlike previous elections, there was no violence, and no mass arrests. There was no restriction on campaigning by Tsvangirai, who addressed huge crowds of up to 20,000 at spirited rallies. Additionally, the government provided fi-

nancial assistance to the MDC, and free access to government television and radio. Seven thousand observers witnessed the election, and over 500 journalists were on hand, while foreign embassies were free to observe unofficially. There is one report that two British Embassy officials who witnessed the election pronounced it "free and fair." There had been plans to stage a "people's power" demonstration against the Mugabe government, but MDC leaders soon realized that this would be futile.

## Economic Dimension

Mugabe used the election to identify Prime Minister Blair as the enemy, and the controlling force behind the "puppet" MDC. He broke all the rules of diplomacy and referred to the latrines as "Blair toilets." Mugabe's attacks on Blair and the British were not just amusing, but actually accurate in an ironic way, if you understand what the British have done to their African colonies. As the present bankrupt financial-monetary system continues to slide daily into an uncontrollable collapse, various financial powers are seeking to grab up valuable raw materials. Zimbabwe, like every country in sub-Saharan Africa, has been the victim of a raw materials-looting policy aimed at controlling, through mercenary armies, the land areas of Africa where these materials are found, with utter disregard for the sovereignty of the nation, and the welfare of the citizens. Eliminate the "natives" and steal the loot, is the centuries-old British imperialist policy.

Mugabe's major crime in the eyes of the British, is that he has continued to defend the sovereignty of his nation. This is the sole reason for the attacks on his leadership. Zimbabwe, formally Rhodesia, was owned by Britain, until the 1980 liberation. It was only in the most recent years, that black Zimbabweans were allowed to reclaim the land that was stolen from them, and permitted to farm it for themselves.

There is no doubt that nation is suffering economically. There are periodic shortages of food, due primarily to a lack of mechanized and irrigated agriculture. Fuel shortages, lack of adequate jobs, the spread of AIDS, a devalued currency, all reflect very serious problems for Zimbabwe society. This is the main cause for the support that the MDC garnered in the urban centers, where the ZANU-PF is weaker. Zimbabwe finds itself in a similar condition to the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, trying to survive in a controlled environment of International Monetary Fund-dictated policies.

To actually reverse these life-threatening conditions, African leaders like Mugabe, who have shown the steadfastness to defend their nations, will have to go beyond the boundaries of their continent, recognize the bankruptcy of the IMF system, and then join forces with other nations to form a new monetary-economic system, based on the management and development of natural resources for the benefit of the people, as proposed in Lyndon LaRouche's New Bretton Woods initiative.



*Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe (right, shown here with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan) came out victorious in the closely scrutinized elections; now, will he act effectively on the broader international arena?*