

Sudan's Economic Accomplishments Become Casus Belli for British Empire

by Hussein Askary

The battle lines have been drawn, as Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized recently, between a continuation of the British Empire's system of slavery, and a system of perfectly sovereign nation-states working together for peace and prosperity with mutual respect and equality. These two systems can no longer co-exist on the same planet. The case of Sudan illustrates this question now. We either save Sudan, and consequently all Africa, from this latest onslaught, or our civilization will have no moral or physical basis for survival.

One day before the illegal International Criminal Court (ICC) issued its arrest warrant against Sudan's President Omar Hasan al-Bashir for alleged war crimes, al-Bashir led a national celebration on March 4 marking the accomplishment of one of the largest engineering projects in all Africa in decades, the Merowe Dam. The President, surrounded by thousands of Sudanese citizens and farmers benefitting from the project, gave the start-up signal for the dam's first two turbines (of ten). This comprehensive hydroelectric agro-industrial project was built with the help of China, and financed by Sudan, China, and some Arab countries. The turbines are provided by the French company Alstom, and the consulting services by the German firm Lahmeyer International.

This project, which will be followed by other similar ones, promises to take Sudan out of poverty and make it indeed "the breakbasket" of Africa. This can also make Sudan a model for other nations, because it has managed to accomplish this gargantuan mission in spite of an economic, political, and diplomatic blockade, in addition to a foreign-

driven guerrilla war. Sudan did not get a penny from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Europe, or the United States to finance the Merowe project, a matter which proved, ironically, to be a blessing rather than a curse. The dimensions of the project reveal the reasons behind the intensified attack on Sudan and Africa generally, by the forces of the British Empire, such as the ICC of George Soros and Lord Mark Malloch-Brown.

As *EIR* reported July 18, 2008, in "Defying Britain's Genocide System: Sudan's Great Project in Agriculture," this type of development is what LaRouche has identified as the determinant of Africa's future, where positive contributions by the United States and Europe could and should be made. But this is exactly what the British Empire, and its sympathizers in Europe and the U.S., have feared all along.

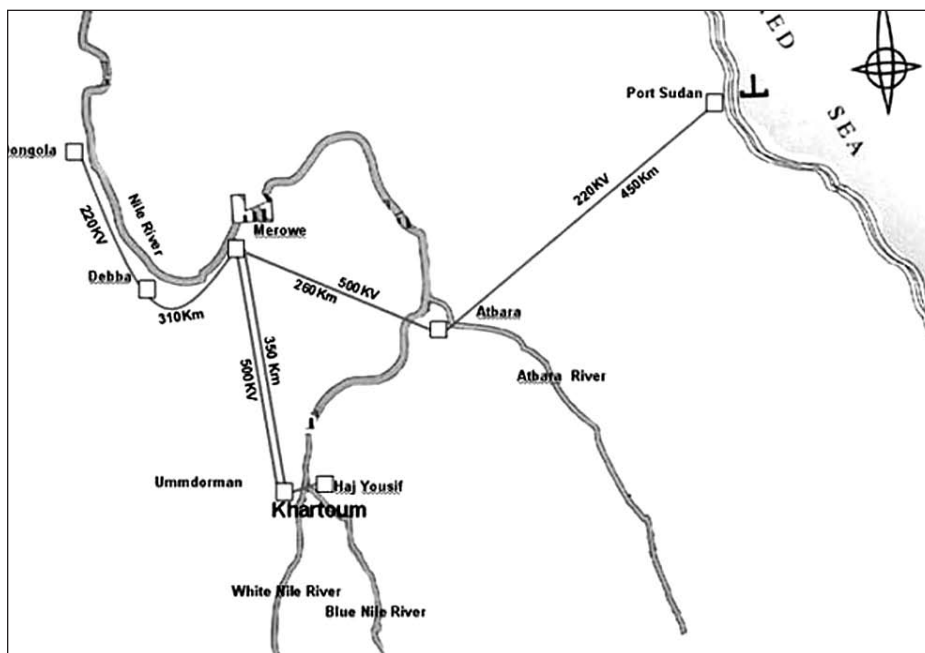
Sudan is Africa's largest nation in area (2.3 million



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Sudan's Merowe Dam is one of the largest engineering projects in Africa in decades, and will add more than 1 million acres of arable farmland to the region.

FIGURE 1
Sudan's Merowe Dam



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square kilometers), and fully 40% of the land area is fertile and arable. It is also endowed with 30 million inhabitants with a great culture and deep roots in history, and one of the largest rivers in the world.

The Merowe Dam, located about 350 km north of Khartoum, will add more than 1 million acres of farmland in that area, with modern canals, electrified pumping stations, fertilizers, modern machinery on the farms, health-care centers, and modern housing units for the 70,000 relocated farmers in the area. The first harvest of wheat and potatoes was reaped already a year ago. Unlike many other locations in Africa, where the agricultural output gets destroyed for lack of refrigerated storage capabilities, the electricity from the dam is powering a major storage facility in the area. Farmers today can cultivate the land three times a year, compared to once a year earlier.

The Sudanese Dams Implementation Unit (DIU) announced on Feb. 8 the successful operation of the two first turbines (125 megawatts each), and on Feb. 22, celebrated the linkage of those turbines with the internal network of the Merowe Dam electricity station.

The dam will add 1,250 MW to the national grid by the end of 2010, when all ten generators will be operating. This means a doubling of the power supply in the country. What it also does, is to revolutionize the agricul-

tural process, not only in the regions near the dam, but also far away, where power is lacking to draw river water and groundwater for agricultural use.

The dam's electricity will reach Northern State on March 18, when the transmission stations at Dongola, Dabba, and Merowe will be launched. On March 23, electricity will reach River Nile State (central province), and the Atbara transmission station. By June, electricity will reach Renk (in the south). In October, electricity will reach El-Obeid in Northern Kordofan (central-west), and in April 2010, the remaining two turbines will be in operation.

Just the Beginning

Addressing the Feb. 22 celebration, Minister of Finance and National Economy Dr. Awad Ahmed al-Jaz affirmed that what completed the Merowe Dam Project were will and determination, pointing out that electricity contributes to unity and linkage of all parts of the country. Minister of Energy and Mining al-Zubair Ahmed al-Hassan said that Sudan needs more electricity than this dam can produce, and called for building more dams.

Two more such projects are planned to be launched this year, one in Kajbar further north, at the Third Cataract of the Nile, and one in Atbara in the east, on the Atbara River flowing from Ethiopia. A third project, to raise the level of the Roseires Dam on the Blue Nile, is already underway by a consortium of Chinese and Sudanese companies.

The Chinese-Sudanese companies which built the Merowe Dam have now acquired the scientific and technical capabilities to achieve such projects faster and more efficiently. This could infect other African nations, spreading all over the continent, where great water projects on major African rivers have been awaiting implementation for decades. This way, Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world until recently, is threatening to literally open the floodgates of self-confidence and optimism in all of Africa! While this is a dream for Africans, it is a nightmare for Brit-

ish and European oligarchs and such of their American allies as Henry Kissinger, Al Gore, and other liberal imperialists and greenies who have vowed to keep Africa depopulated and underdeveloped for the benefit of international raw material conglomerates and financial interests.

This fact was reflected in the speech made by President al-Bashir on March 3, at the inauguration of the dam. He made it clear that the “ICC is the creation of Europeans who turned the Darfur crisis from a normal crisis into a major one, when they saw that the war in southern Sudan was stopped.” He added that they “want to use it as a tool to colonize Africa and loot its resources and stop the development drive of Sudan and other nations.”

Al-Bashir stated that the building of the Merowe Dam and other development projects is Sudan’s response to the ICC, and that these will continue. He said that the ICC can take its decision tomorrow, “immerse it in water, and drink the juice coming out of it”—a traditional way of saying it is a worthless piece of paper.

Other government officials made similar statements.

Vice President Ali Osman Mohammad Taha said, without mentioning any specific countries, that the ICC is “an imperialist tool to achieve the objectives of certain states.” He told citizens in a village in western Sudan that “this battle will be long. But the ICC will not force the Sudanese leadership into the ditches, but we will encounter it with more economic development.”

Taha stressed that the Sudanese “do not worship men, but al-Bashir is the symbol of our sovereignty, and anyone who harms him, harms the dignity of our nation. We will not resist the ICC with slogans and demonstrations, but with political and economic development.”

Although Defense Minister Abdul-Rahim Hussein attacked the U.S. policy against Sudan, he emphasized that the Sudanese people have nothing but goodwill towards the United States. He called for “destroying the ICC before it is used to destroy nations.” The Assistant to the President, Nafie Ali Nafie, attacked the United States, France, and Britain for using the ICC to recolonize Africa and the Middle East.

Al-Bashir Attacks the British Empire

On March 5, al-Bashir addressed what Sudanese sources estimate to be hundreds of thousands of Sudanese citizens who gathered in the capital Khartoum to

FIGURE 2

Northeast Africa



EIRNS/John Sigerson

protest the ICC’s decision to issue an arrest warrant against their President. Al-Bashir started by blasting the British Empire, invoking the fight the ancestors of the Sudanese people launched against the British in the 19th and 20th centuries, saying that that fight continues

now against neo-colonialism. He thoroughly described how “the Sudanese tried and punished the British Empire for its crimes against the Chinese people and other Asian and African peoples by executing the British governor Gordon Pasha, here in the Presidential palace” in 1885. Al-Bashir said that Gordon, who was known as Chinese Gordon, “was famous for torturing and killing masses of people in China and Asia.” He said “the British never forgave the Sudanese people for doing that, and brought new armies and modern weapons to subdue the Sudanese people, but they resisted.” Al-Bashir gave an account of the many battles of the Sudanese people and the different tribes and groups that fought against the British armies, which includes every part of the country. The President emphasized that this is what the whole issue today is about. “They want to subdue Africa, stop its economic development, and loot its natural wealth.”

President al-Bashir vowed to continue the development process in the country. He also called for establishing a new international front against the neo-colonial policy. He attacked the genocide committed by the British and other empires in Africa, including the slave trade, as well as the U.S. attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Vietnam War, the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Israeli wars against Lebanon and Gaza, and said that all these constitute war crimes. He added that the perpetrators of these crimes come now to try the Africans. He said that the road to the invasion of Iraq was paved with lies, and that the allegations raised by the International Criminal Court are just similar lies.

The U.S. and the Role of LaRouche

The most crucial factor in this development is what position the United States will take. An interesting aspect of this is that the United States is not a member-state in the ICC. The Bush Administration had rejected the idea, because it was touted as an anti-American operation in 2002 to lure African, Latin American, and European nations into accepting this supranational abomination.

President Barak Obama has a great opportunity to turn the whole situation in a different direction, by adopting what LaRouche has recommended as a “positive policy towards Africa” with active input into economic development projects. Obama’s own family history should tell him something about the evils of pursuing a British-created policy, as his grandfather

was a victim, along with hundreds of thousands of Kenyans, of British colonial torture and mass killing in Kenya during the Mau Mau insurgency in the 1950s.

One interesting development in that direction that took place on March 4 and 5, was the highlighting of LaRouche’s role in the Sudanese and Arab media: The Sudan Media Center, which is one of the main news sources in the country, posted LaRouche’s March 2 statement, demanding that the Secretary of State and the U.S. Administration as a whole distance themselves from the policy of the ICC. The statement was posted prominently on the SMC’s website with a large LaRouche PAC logo. The same day, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) issued a wire report in Arabic on LaRouche’s statement. SUNA’s wire cited LaRouche’s call on Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to distance the U.S. from the ICC decision, and that she “should under no conditions accept anything that sounds like any endorsement, for any reason, for any price, of this ICC question.” It quoted LaRouche as saying, “This is a matter of life or death for civilization as a whole.”

SUNA further reported: “The LaRouche movement in the United States is producing videos and reports intending to educate the American people and politicians about the truth of the situation in Sudan, and the necessity of adopting a new policy that follows in the footsteps of the Founding Fathers of the American Republic which was anti-imperialistic, and a policy committed to the legacy and ideas of Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the freedom and development of Africa.”

The SUNA wire was republished on March 5 in various Arabic news websites and in the Saudi national daily *al-Madina*.

We stand now at a crossroads for all humanity. Sometimes in the course of such historic developments, a truthful but forceful intervention, no matter how small it may seem, could move mountains. A change of U.S. policy towards Africa is both possible and essential for all mankind. In spite of what George Soros and his earlier Nazi and current British patrons claim, human nature is not bestial. The look on the faces of the celebrating Sudanese citizens standing in front of the gushing water from the Merowe Dam, a look of joy and optimism that said, “We can accomplish anything we want,” showed that nothing is impossible if our will and passion is directed towards the progress and prosperity our nations and the coming generations in every nation.