

The Serbian Army must be stopped

by Davos Stier

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“On the eve of my death, I beg Your Majesty to determine the site of my burial wherever you please within the confines of your Empire, but never, *never* in that execrable country over which I have had the disgrace to reign.”

—Letter from the Serbian King Milan Obrenovic to Austrian Emperor Francis Joseph.

Serbia attacks Slovenia: 67 dead. Serbia attacks Croatia: 15,000 dead. Serbia attacks Bosnia-Herzegovina: 30,000 dead. The logical conclusion? Serbia must be stopped. The conclusion of western officials and “analysts”? If Serbia is primarily responsible, so are all the others! There should be no military intervention, but rather convene a peace conference in which no distinction is made between the aggressor and the victims of that aggression.

Canadian general Lewis MacKenzie cheerfully told *Time* magazine, “Both sides are to blame.” For the chief of U.N. forces in Sarajevo, the Muslims are as guilty as the Serbian aggressors because they purportedly exaggerate the invading army’s atrocities. Yet against the terrifying images of Serbian concentration camps and attacks on buses carrying orphans, MacKenzie’s argument is a cruel joke.

The point is that the so-called international community led by the United States never wanted to condemn the Serbians. Moreover, a few days prior to the Slovenian and Croatian declarations of independence, Secretary of State James Baker traveled to Belgrade to chastise the two secessionist republics. In other words, Washington gave the green light to the Serbians to invade their former colonies.

Baker’s departure from the State Department will surely not improve the situation because his replacement, Lawrence Eagleburger, is so intimately linked to Belgrade that he has already earned the title of “Lawrence of Serbia.” While serving as U.S. ambassador to Belgrade, the new American

secretary of state maintained a fruitful friendship with Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. Upon returning to the United States, as a member of the board of directors of Global Motors, Eagleburger promoted the import of the “Yugo,” manufactured by Red Star, the Serbian military plant.

Concentration camps

Nonetheless, it would seem now that western politicians may be opening their eyes, as they turn on their television sets and see the Serbian concentration camps in Bosnia. Of course, things haven’t gone beyond that. They saw the Croats and Muslims mistreated, expressed their regrets, and then changed the channel.

Concentration camps are nothing new for the Serbs. On July 10, 1941, the collaborationist government of General Nedic opened such a camp at Banjka near Belgrade, and held 23,679 opponents of the pro-Nazi regime. Nor is “ethnic cleansing” a practice the Serbs recently discovered. During World War II, Serbia’s security chief, A. Shefer, declared Belgrade to be a city “free of Jews”—*judenfrei*. The Serbs systematically applied ethnic cleansing during the Yugoslavian monarchy (1918-41) and then under communism (1945-91) to conquer neighboring territories. During the postwar period, through terror and economic austerity, the Serbs forced 1 million Croats to emigrate abroad in search of peace and work. Today they’re applying the same plan, this time through direct bombardment of Croatian cities.

One need not be surprised by the brutality of the Serbian militias. In 1903, Serbian soldiers had no qualms about entering the royal palace, murdering King Alexander Obrenovic (son of the above-mentioned Milan Obrenovic), and raping and mutilating Queen Draga, after which Lieutenant Colonel Miscich displayed her uterus on the tip of his sword. If this is the way they treat monarchs, what can the Muslims and Croats expect at their hands when they are imprisoned in their concentration camps?

Military intervention

Now, after presenting this analysis, it would be cowardly to end without proposing a solution; and the only possible solution is to break the Serbian Army.

The problem won’t be resolved by sheltering refugees in western European nations. If aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina is limited to this, then the Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing will be rewarded. The correct policy is to return the refugees to their homes, and the only way to do this is to expel the Serbian Army.

Foreign military intervention can be an efficient solution as long as it has a precise objective: to destroy the Serbian forces. Any other form of intervention, such as that planned to guard the convoys carrying humanitarian assistance, is just a smokescreen designed to cover up either the lack of effectiveness or the complicity of the powers which today rule the world.