

## Editorial

### *Is war imminent?*

The rumors in financial markets these days is of a new oil shock. Sources anticipate a \$35 barrel price in the not-too-distant future, which would of course have a drastic impact on the economies and the political options of the East bloc and Europe, as well as among other nations around the world. At the same time, we are told that the London banks are financing a mini-boom in North Sea oil exploration. Translate this into political terms and the message is, war.

Over this next 60-day period, unless there is a major policy shift, it appears that the world is being plunged into the greatest pre-war crisis of the 20th century. This does not mean that we are predicting war, but we are issuing an alert that the world is facing a replay of the kind of events which, in 1913 and in 1939, did lead to world war.

In the 1973-74 period, Henry Kissinger orchestrated a war in the Middle East such that oil prices were rigged to a price which allowed British North Sea oil to be developed at a profit. An added benefit from the point of the malthusian faction, whom Kissinger served, was the destruction of the economies of the developing sector, as a prelude to their recolonization.

At that time Kissinger held power in the Nixon administration, but he also consciously served the interests of circles in London centered around the Royal Institute for International Affairs. Known also as Chatham House, this agency has owned Kissinger, according to his own account, since the 1950s. While Kissinger is now officially out of government, his policies are guiding the present administration to an even worse disaster than that which faced Richard Nixon.

The present crisis is a political and a financial-economic crisis, but the roots of the crisis lie in the policy-shaping structures particularly of the Anglo-American establishments, but also of the Soviet Union. The Middle East today, is comparable to the Balkans in the role which the latter region played in the pre-war configuration in the period before 1914.

The short-sighted view of Anglo-American policy

circles makes a rerun of the 1973 oil crisis an attractive way out of their financial debacle, with the added benefit that, from the establishment's perspective, it would destabilize Franco-German development plans as well. So great wars occur, through miscalculation.

In this case, there is a striking political parallel between Hitler's miscalculation that he would isolate and then whip the United States, and the arrogance being evinced in top Washington circles as the Bush administration moves in an increasingly fascist direction—abrogating the rule of law both in its actions at home and abroad.

A great financial mudslide is under way. Either whole financial and political structures will be swept away in the debacle, or the Bush administration will succeed in imposing a fascist regime-by-fiat upon financial markets, along with the imposition of police state measures on the political front.

The question is whether or not the American population has the capacity to resist.

Certainly the ugly cultural degradation which we see today on the television and movie screen, the destruction of family values, and the general pragmatism of the "I'll-get-mine" mentality prevalent in the United States today, would on the face of it suggest a negative answer. Yet this past year we have been given a stirring lesson of the capacity of men and women, living under the most brutal tyranny, to resist and free themselves.

One characteristic of this wave, has been the role accorded to the great music of Beethoven, from Tiananmen Square in the People's Republic of China, to the music halls of East Germany. The United States at present is largely a cultural desert, although this was not always so. At the time when America was first founded, the cultural level of its citizenry was the highest in the world.

We stand at a turning point in history, and the choices of this generation will shape the future of humanity for decades, perhaps centuries, to come.