

Editorial

Can civilization be saved?

The blood-and-soil ideology of Nazi Germany claimed that some people were “racially” inferior, and the same sort of racist propaganda was and is a leading feature of British imperialist ideology. Today we see it cropping up again, as leading figures in France, Italy, and Germany scream against the wave of immigrants—from Africa and from eastern Europe—whom they fear will be seeking refuge in Europe as the economic situation in their own countries becomes more and more desperate.

People who in a previous period would have expressed compassion for the plight of starving refugees, today seem to feel no shame at consigning them to death from starvation and disease. Instead, they are defending the most backward conceptions of what constitutes a nation, substituting fascist notions of “racial” purity, for the idea of a nation as a community of interest defined by its culture and language.

The situation in America is no better. Not only is racism against blacks and hispanics increasing, but Americans are permitting the Bush administration to commit genocide against the Iraqi people, and many actively support this policy.

An international study team which included doctors from Harvard University and researchers from Oxford University and the London School of Economics has just released its findings. They say that the continuing sanctions against Iraq have resulted in an almost four-fold increase in the mortality rate of Iraqi children. There is barely any infant formula or powdered milk to feed children, and essential medicines are lacking.

If this state of affairs continues, the team fears that tens of thousands of additional deaths will occur in the 3 million Iraqi children who are under five years of age.

The rise of fascist ideology which is being spread throughout the advanced sector is driven by the ratchet down primarily of the economies of the United States and Great Britain, but of continental Europe as well. As the governments of Germany, Italy, and France capitulate to the demands of the Anglo-American oligarchy, popular discontent rises.

For example, the French government has just given in to Anglo-American demands that they withdraw agricultural price supports. This will not only bankrupt French farmers, but will result in real shortages of food, and not only in France. It is the people of Africa and eastern Europe, and the republics of the former Soviet Union, who will first feel the effects of these food shortages.

The still-existing economic potential of France, Germany, Italy, and Japan is the only barrier to a collapse into a global depression more terrible than any before. It is for this reason that Lyndon LaRouche and his associates have been fighting to see policies for investment in global infrastructure development adopted by these countries.

Although Germany has allocated money for some infrastructural improvements, this has not been enough to stop the slide. The failure of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and others to move decisively on this front, means that increasingly desperate people are susceptible to fascist rabble-rousing against immigrants and the people of the developing sector.

In our Aug. 30 issue, Uwe Friesecke, a German leader of the Schiller Institute, warned of the lethal combination in western Europe of economic strains and venal political leadership. In France, he reported already at that time, the Socialist government “more or less proposes to forcefully deport tens of thousands, if not millions, of foreigners.” In Germany, “the worst effect of pragmatic politics is that, under pressure of economic crises, you bring out the worst in individuals. If you cannot appeal to higher purposes as the justification for personal engagement, then you leave the individual to a level of emotional reaction which is easily ‘everybody for himself.’ ”

Western Christianity was based upon the truth that all men and women of the *human* race have been created in the living image of their Creator. When this is denied and bestiality is unleashed, then this is truly the end of civilization.