their sovereign right; and no outcry on the part of the neo-Malthusian community is going to squeeze the genie back into the bottle. Anyone who is seriously concerned to prevent the danger of the deployment of nuclear weapons, under the conditions of chaos unleashed by worldwide financial collapse, for example, in the case of the breakup of Russia, has only one alternative, namely, the concept LaRouche elaborated at the beginning of the 1980s, which President Ronald Reagan declared to be U.S. policy in 1983, known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). What is required is the most broadly arrayed development of antiballistic-missile defense, based on "new physical principles," with whose help nuclear weapons can be rendered obsolete for the first time.

A crisis of civilization

The problem the world faces—and only in this context can "national interests" be meaningfully discussed—is the fact that the systemic crisis of the global financial system is only one aspect of a comprehensive crisis of civilization, whereby 30 years of wrong, neo-liberal policies, have thrown all institutions out of kilter. The dimensions of this crisis will rapidly overshadow everything which resulted from the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mankind will be spared a descent into barbarism, only if a "new, just world economic order," an idea which was last seriously discussed in the 1970s, in the Non-Aligned Movement, is implemented, allowing for all nations on this planet to seize the right to development worthy of human dignity, for all their citizens. This is possible only to the extent that all nations have unfettered access to scientific and technological progress, including access to so-called "dual-use technologies." At the same time, protectionist measures must protect especially the weaker nations in their reconstruction phase, and a new, just system of tariffs and trade conditions must secure the international exchange of goods.

One approach to this is provided by the old Bretton Woods system, as it functioned rather well in the 1950s. The only qualitative difference required now, is that the so-called Third World must be given an equal voice, and this means overcoming as rapidly as possible the status of being the "Third World."

It is unfortunately a fact, that the political direction of the United States, western Europe, and Japan, today, is indefensible. Even when the relevant governments would rather not hear it, it is a fact: The governments of China, India, or Malaysia are doing much more at the moment to defend the interests of their populations, and therewith, actually, those of the entire world.

We find ourselves in such a fundamental, historic, revolutionary phase, in which the question will be brought forward by force: Why should two-thirds of mankind let themselves be ordered around by the governments of less than one-third, when the policies of these governments for the past 30 years, have proven to be an utter, tragic failure?

Horn of Africa war disrupts London's plans vs. Sudan

by Joseph Brewda

The outbreak of fighting between former close allies, Isaias Afwerki's Eritrea and Meles Zenawi's Ethiopia in May, is the latest setback hitting Ugandan strongman Yoweri Museveni, who had been counting on those countries' continuing military support for his British-backed plans of establishing a Tutsi empire of "African new leaders," dominating the entire Horn of Africa, East Africa region. But while the conflict undermines this particular British gameplan, it might serve another: the continuing effort to break up the Ethiopian state, if Eritrea moves to spark ethnic rebellions within Ethiopia, especially among the Oromo, Somali, and Gambella peoples.

The alleged basis of the dispute is a 155 square mile, rocky border area within the Ethiopian province of Tigre, 600 miles north of the capital of Addis Ababa. On May 6, Eritrean troops crossed the border, and on May 12 took control of the area, claiming it as their own. Serious fighting broke out on May 31. The Eritrean bombing of the Tigrayan provincial capital, Mekelle, on June 5, and the Ethiopian bombing of the airport in the Eritrean capital of Asmara that same day, escalated the conflict. As we go to press, tanks and troops are pouring into the region from both sides, and the war is spreading to new border zones.

The dipatching of Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Susan Rice, into the region on May 16, in an effort to stem the fighting, and coordinated diplomatic efforts by Britain and Italy, Ethiopia/Eritrea's former colonial masters, have been unsuccessful. The common concern is that the conflict may undermine a long-standing British Foreign Office gameplan to make Uganda the overlord of a vast empire, comprising Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, southern Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo-Zaire, all subject to looting by the British mineral cartels.

The Ethiopian-Eritrean war puts a brake on this whole invasion war plan, especially as Afwerki took the "non-lethal military assistance" given him by the United States for use against Sudan, and has instead used it against his enemies in Ethiopia.

Reality reasserts itself

Although the war was reportedly unforeseen by British strategists, observers from the region stress that it is the natural result of Ethiopian nationalism reasserting itself. At issue

is the continuing existence of the 3,000-year-old Ethiopian nation, historically the center of sub-Saharan Africa's most educated elite. The creation of Eritrea, which absorbed Ethiopia's Red Sea coast, was undertaken to aid Ethiopia's dismemberment. It originally came into being as a separate entity in the 1890s, as a result of Italian seizure of Ethiopia's coast, and remained under Italian rule through 1941. (Italy also occupied the rest of Ethiopia during 1936-41.)

After World War II, Britain took over Eritrea under UN Mandate, but its efforts to hive it off as a permanent colony joined to British Somalia proved unsuccessful, and the region was merged with rest of Ethiopia in 1952 in a federal arrangement, and unified as a province of Ethiopia ten years later. However, Britain, Italy, Israel, Egypt, and some co-thinkers in the U.S. State Department, were not pleased with Ethiopia's reunification, and immediately began supporting, arming, and deploying the Eritrean separatist movement—if for differing reasons. The British object throughout was to dismember Ethiopia, to further its efforts to fragment and occupy the Horn of Africa region.

The overthrow of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, the rise of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam that year, the murderous war with Somalia beginning 1977, and the famines following it, have aided that assault on Ethiopia and the region. The plan was laid out by National Security Adviser and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who, in National Security Study Memorandum 200, written under his direction, specified Ethiopia as one of 13 nations targetted for population reduction, through war, famine, and birth control.

Finally, in 1991, Britain, with the support of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen, overthrew Mengistu, and installed Meles Zenawi's Tigre People's Liberation Front and Isaias Afwerki's Eritrean People's Liberation Front in his place. Afwerki had been fighting for an independent Eritrea with foreign assistance since the 1970s. Zenawi was Afwerki's protégé, and the Tigre People's Liberation Front had been created as an Eritrean tool to weaken Ethiopia, by spreading insurgency into the Tigre ethnic region that straddles what is today the Eritrean-Ethiopian border. As soon as Zenawi took power as Ethiopian head of state (and not merely Tigre), Eritrea became de facto independent, and was declared formally independent in 1993.

Zenawi went further. On behalf of the same British scheme, Zenawi also rammed through a new, British-acclaimed Constitution, unprecedented in the world, which allows for the secession of any of the 80-odd ethnic groups within Ethiopia, if they so desire. But despite the imposition of a new, foreign-supported dictatorship, regional sources stress that an increasing number of the Ethiopian elite, including among Zenawi's own Tigrayan comrades, have determined that Ethiopia faces extinction if this process long continues. The recent Eritrean effort to seize part of Ethiopian territory, combined with resentment over Eritrea using its control of the former Ethiopian coast to impose economic

FIGURE 1
Horn of Africa

concessions on the use of its ports, has brought this conflict over Ethiopia's future out into the open.

As a result, Zenawi has been forced to move militarily against his former mentor. He has also been forced to dismiss and arrest his Eritrean palace guard, whom Afwerki had provided to oversee his personal security. According to regional sources, Zenawi's days are numbered, and power is shifting to a four-person group in the ruling central committee, who, with the backing of a powerful group within the Army, are gunning for conflict with Eritrea.

Other dangers

In the meantime, regional observers fear that Afwerki, who wants the conflict to continue for his own reasons, will seek to spread the war, through fostering ethnic rebellions within Ethiopia, with which he has had relations going back to the days when he originally patronized Zenawi and his Tigrayan rebels. Among the groups slated for rebellion are the Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, traditionally underprivileged, who live in a vast region in the central and southern regions of the country; the Somali, living in the east, bordering Somalia; and the Gambella in the southwest, bordering Sudan. If such insurgency spreads, these observers fear, Ethiopia could go the way of Somalia or Rwanda, and plunge into an inter-ethnic bloodbath that would destroy the nation. All sources agree that the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict is now irrepressible, adding a new element into the balance of power in the Horn of Africa.