

Africa gives a glimpse at your own future

by Linda de Hoyos

Figure 1 might remind us of the cataclysm that has recently struck in Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, but it is Zaire, and the time is not now, but the early 1990s. Between 1991 and 1993, the country of Zaire underwent two successive devaluations of its currency — of 1,000% each.

This devaluation caused, as can be seen in **Figure 2**, astronomical levels of inflation, so that by 1994, inflation was at 1 trillion percent! Zaire ceased to be a money economy.

The question that is posed by Zaire is: Is there life after death? The answer to that question is, “Yes,” on condition that:

1. a New Bretton Woods system is created by sovereign nation-states for the purposes of global infrastructural development;
2. the concept of the sovereign nation-state is not lost;
3. there is leadership that is dedicated to the advancement of its people as human beings made in the image of God.

We can answer this question from the standpoint of Africa, because Africa is not some distant continent far away

that seems strange, where people do have a lot of problems — like war, disease, and famine. Africa is your future, unless we are able to bring the world into a New World Economic Order.

This is because the cataclysm that we have been witnessing unfold in Southeast Asia, Russia, and Ibero-America, has already happened in Africa—it happened ten years ago. Therefore, Africa avails a glimpse of the violence and chaos that Prince Philip and his ilk are prepared to unleash everywhere.

What happened to Africa

In the 1980s, most African countries were put through what is called a Structural Adjustment Program by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Now, what Structural Adjustment actually means, is the destruction of any structure or barrier that might stand in the way of the total looting of a national economy.

Africa was targeted for two reasons. First, because the long-standing yoke of colonialism and slavery had left African nations vulnerable. Second, Africa has vast wealth; it has enormous agricultural potential and enormous mineral and resource wealth. Under a sane monetary system, Africa would be an industrial powerhouse. So, there is a lot of wealth to be had in Africa.

The conditionalities that were imposed on African countries represented a takedown of the government. These conditionalities were:

- no foreign exchange controls;

FIGURE 1
The value of Zaire's currency has plummeted
(zaire to U.S. dollar)

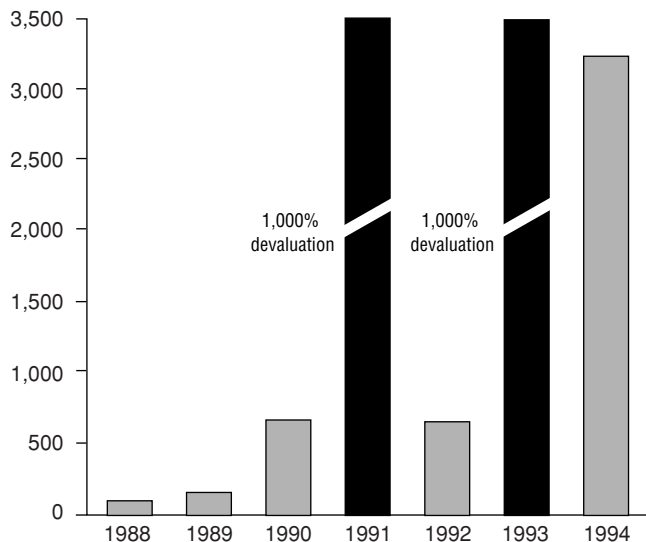


FIGURE 2
Consumer prices in Zaire
(Index = 100)

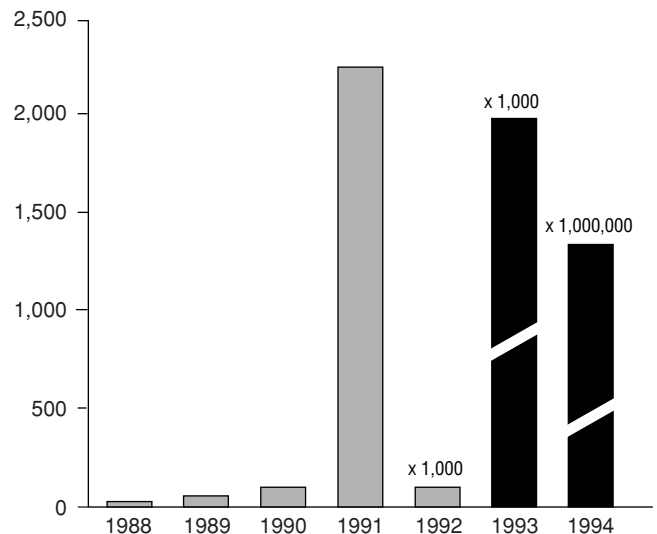
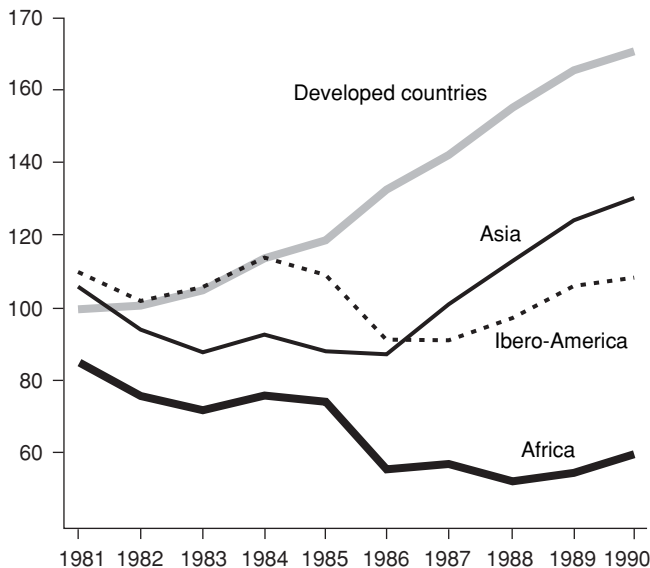


FIGURE 3

Purchasing power of exports

(1980 = 100)

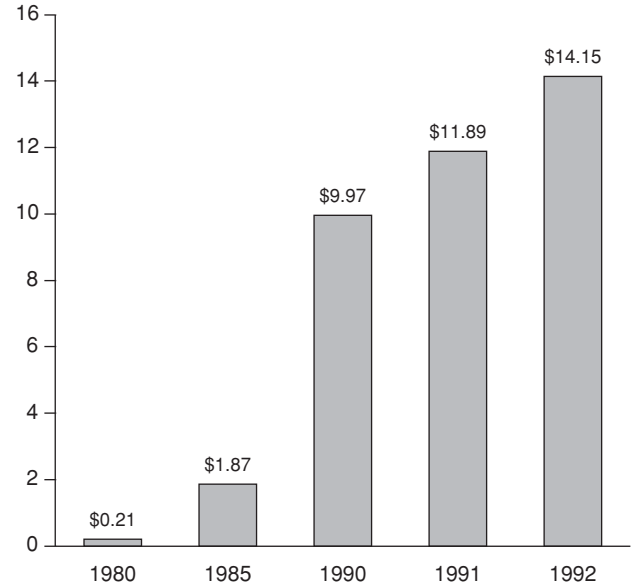


Source: UN

FIGURE 4

Sub-Saharan Africa's rising debt arrears

(billions \$)



Source: UN

- no development, because, “You clearly don’t have money for that, do you?”;

- no subsidies to people for food or anything else. For instance, in 1985, when the country of Sudan was in the midst of a terrible famine, the IMF refused any credit to Sudan and the country was put under a donors’ embargo, because it had refused to end food subsidies. When I asked an IMF desk officer why this was happening, and said that an end to subsidies would mean that more people would starve, he answered, “Yes, but it is good for the economy”;

- cutback of services to the point of nonexistence. In Zaire, there are no medical services, there are no educational services, there are no services that one would think a government would actually supply to its people;

- drastic currency devaluations;
- total debt repayment.

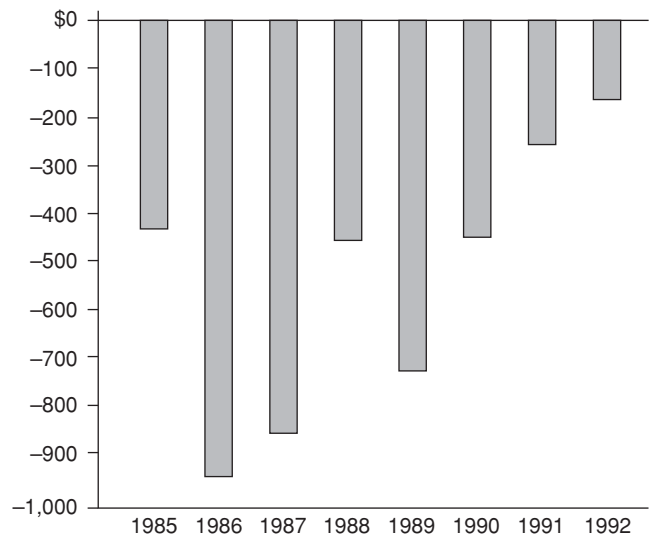
At the same time as the IMF’s Structural Adjustment Programs were being put into place, the terms of trade of African commodities plummeted in the 1980s. There arose an enormous disparity between the purchasing power of African exports as opposed to the purchasing power of the exports of the developed countries (Figure 3).

The total impact of all this is what I call the “vacuum cleaner effect.” The countries are simply sucked dry. Between 1986 and 1990, Africa had to export 30% more of its commodities in order to earn the same dollar in foreign exchange. Between 1986 and 1990, because of the lack of foreign ex-

FIGURE 5

IMF net transfers: sub-Saharan Africa

(millions \$)



Source: UN

change controls, Africa lost another \$30 billion in capital flight.

The net transfer of resources and money of Africa was

out. During the 1980s, the debt of African nations rose astronomically (Figure 4). The African countries had to borrow more money in order to pay the IMF. Figure 5 shows the net transfer of funds from Africa countries to the IMF during the same period: The African countries gave the IMF far more than they received in that decade.

So, it is not the case after all that Africa lives off the aid we give them, those poor incompetents. It is the fact that we live off them.

The vacuum cleaner in this way just keeps sucking and sucking, and the hole gets deeper and deeper.

The physical economic and social effects

In the 1980s, the Gross National Product of most African countries officially contracted. The figures are an underestimation of what happened to the real physical economy. The GNP in Gabon fell 25%; in Zambia, 35%; in Tanzania, 58%; in Zaire, 59%; and in Nigeria, 76%.

As countries scrambled for cash, people were not able to produce food. Figure 6 gives an idea of the downslide of per-capita agricultural production in the same time period.

Real wages fell by more than 30% across the board in Africa. Unemployment officially rose in most African countries at a rate of 10% per year.

Naturally, life expectancies under these conditions began to come down. They had taken a leap forward in the 1960s right after independence, and now they are beginning to fall back to the levels prevailing under colonialism. In 1994, for instance, life expectancies were: for Zaire, 47; Burundi, 40; Uganda, 37; and Rwanda, 22.6 years.

Life expectancy in the United States is 76.

What were the social effects of this catastrophe? First of all, psychologically, is the breeding of hopelessness and pessimism, as an entire generation is simply cast on the scrapheap. There is a rise of criminalization in the society, a burgeoning of the underground criminal economy. There is a rise in insurgencies, also due to the complete collapse of education. There are wars.

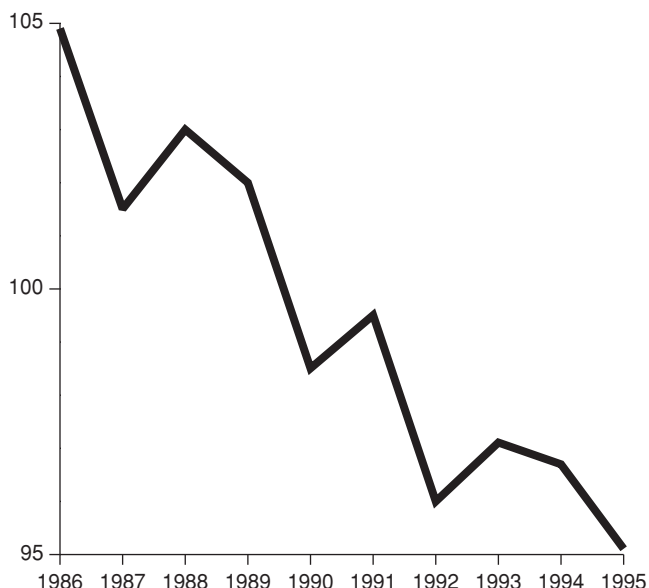
Today, there are 16 African countries that have their troops deployed in war, either civil wars or foreign wars: Algeria, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Sudan. This involves a huge area of the continent, not counting the deployment of Nigerian Ecomog troops into Sierra Leone.

Between 1980 and 1989, the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people *within the continent*, not counting the many millions that have left Africa altogether, tripled, from 4,045,200 in 1980, to 13,721,800 in 1989. Today, it is about 14 million. In the 1989 figure, there are about 4 million internally displaced South Africans and 1 million Ethiopians, and they have now been replaced by people from East Africa, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

These horrors can be distilled into the image of the child-

FIGURE 6
Per-capita agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa

(1989-91 = 100)



Source: UN

soldiers. The picture is taken from 1985, when Yoweri Museveni, now the President of Uganda but then still a guerrilla leader in the bush, was about to seize Kampala. He seized Kampala with *kadogos*, the word for child-soldiers, who overran the capital. In the picture, he is giving instructions to one of them. The recruitment of child-soldiers was in keeping with Museveni's ultimate ideology, which is the Dar es Salaam University theory that violence is the proper tool of education. Therefore, he is "educating" this young man. How do you recruit a child-soldier? Museveni was a pioneer in this respect. It is very simple. You kill their parents, and then you take that traumatized child into your own group, and you terrorize that child into becoming a killer. That is what we see today in northern Uganda with the Lord's Resistance Army, in southern Sudan with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and in Congo.

In 1990, after the economic devastation wrought by the IMF, a new phase of destruction was unleashed, and this was London's geopolitical move to destroy the nation-state completely through marcherlords unleashed primarily out of Uganda. The targets were American allies: Liberia, Somalia, and Zaire. In 1989, Charles Taylor invaded Liberia; that country is now completely obliterated. In 1989, right before the Persian Gulf War, Somalian President Siad Barre was brought down, and that country is now obliterated. In 1990, Museveni invaded Rwanda under the cover of the Gulf War. The goal

Museveni's *kadogo* who missed milk



"Museveni's Kadogo Who Missed Milk," was the headline of this newspaper article on President Yoweri Museveni. Museveni (left) talks to his kadogos, the name given to designate his child-soldiers, during his guerrilla war in 1985 to gain power. Museveni was a pioneer in the use of children soldiers.

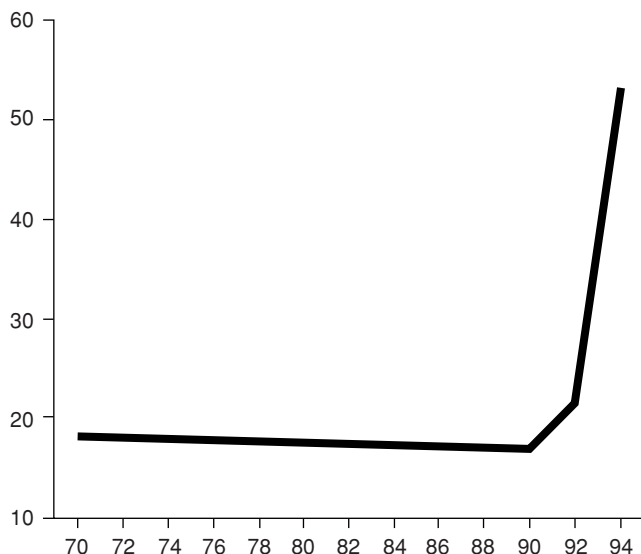
of that invasion was never Rwanda; the goal of that war was always Zaire. And, we have witnessed the devastation to human beings that was wrought by this plan.

As of last year, the areas under the control of this British warlord force and their allies at that time, included Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, and Namibia—half of the continent.

However, this past August, a change has taken place. On Aug. 2, the Rwandans and Ugandans launched a new invasion of the Congo, because the President they had installed there in 1997, Laurent Kabila, was not cooperating with the program. Now, leaders throughout the region have begun to wake up. Zimbabwe, Angola, and Namibia, supported diplomatically by Zambia and Kenya, have taken action to defend the Congo. On Aug. 24, they counterattacked militarily to support the Congo against invasion. This is not an action to defend Kabila, but to defend the *sovereignty* of the Congo. A line has been drawn. These countries know that if they do not stop Museveni and the forces behind him, which they know are London and allied channels within the United States and France, then *they will be next*. They know that this a marcherlord force bent on the annihilation of the nation-state.

FIGURE 7
Crude death rates rise in Rwanda

(deaths per thousand)



A vision for the future

But this defense can only buy precious time. To achieve victory, two additional conditions must be met.

First, "Where the leaders have no vision, the people perish." Contrast the death rate since 1994 of Rwanda (**Figure 7**), to the potentialities that would have been unleashed if, instead, the Transaqua Project, which would take a mere 5% of the water from the Congo River basin, and divert it by canal into the Sahel, had been constructed in the early 1990s, as agreed upon by the then-Presidents of Chad, the Central African Republic, and Zaire. The Transaqua Project, which also envisions a highway from Mombasa, Kenya, on the Indian Ocean, stretching to the Atlantic Ocean at Lagos, Nigeria, would open up the entire landlocked regions of Central Africa to trade, would open up Africa to the internal exchange of goods, and would create the conditions for full-scale high-technology agriculture and industrialization.

Victory requires as its first condition leaders in Africa who will not only seek to *defend* their countries, but are committed to the Africa of the future, who can see the global crisis and are ready to seize the opportunity to rid Africa of the yoke of colonialism and slavery forever. Leaders who have the courage to say, "Enough. The land is soaked with the blood of our children. This is it. *We* are going to build Africa now."

Second, the victory Africa requires for its rebirth in the twenty-first century, also needs *us*. It needs you. To save Africa, to save ourselves, we must have a New World Economic Order, now, before it is too late.