

designed for Belarussian national writers, *Litaratura i Mistactva*, would die the next day.

Beyond their official subject, the helpful tutors were promoting free elections, based on party principles. Ironically, in Russia their colleagues demanded the opposite—in order to reduce the influence of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and its allies.

But actually, the “teachers of democracy” are struggling not just for free trade, but for complete freedom of election funding, which is regarded as equal to “freedom of opinion.” Practically, the objective is freedom for the financiers—and precisely for that reason, Russia’s TV channels, owned by oligarchical interests, often follow the same line of coverage of Belarus as the “teachers of democracy.” From both the West and Russia, the Belarussian leadership is labelled “fascist.” For a people that lost every fourth citizen in World War II, this sounds offensive.

In his dialogue with journalists from St. Petersburg, President Lukashenka explained the reasons for heavy participation of Western figures, including once prominent intelligence operatives, in the opposition movement, and for the desperate hypocrisy of the “human rights” propaganda:

“There are two reasons for the Western strategists’ dissatisfaction. In case we followed the example of Ukraine in our military policy, Russia would be completely stripped of its Western flank. During the Soviet rule, three strategic defense groups were formed—in Ukraine, Belarus, and in the Baltic area. In the present world situation, wars are not conducted in the same way as before—Northern Front, Southern Front, etc. The key role is played by missile strikes. Belarus has the most reliable system of anti-missile defense. Actually, we are able to protect the whole space from Kiev to Riga. Certainly, the NATO leadership is aware of this. It is also aware of the fact that our army is well trained. This is one reason, but not the only one. We represent also a rival in civilian industrial production. We produce our own goods, which are often quite competitive. This is not appreciated by Western, and not only Western large interests. They don’t like our behavior, not for political, but to a very significant extent, for economic reasons.”

As for basic human rights, the Western audience could easily find them in the Bible, if it were read more often than detective thrillers and bodice-rippers. The right to live, and to live in conditions which a human being deserves, is more important from the standpoint of Christianity than the right to insult the head of the country, or the right to speculate with the wealth created by the previous generations of your people. The very fact that infant mortality and morbidity in Belarus is lower than in any other post-Soviet state and in some ostensibly advanced countries, as well as the fact of a practical absence of child poverty and trading in human beings, suggest that the method of management chosen by Belarus’s leadership, is more Christian than what the population of the Western industrial countries faces, in the process of becoming post-industrial.

New Geopolitical Offensive To Be Launched at Oxford

by Our Special Correspondent

EIR has learned from U.S. Republican Party-linked sources, that on June 30, a newly created Mackinder Forum is having its inaugural meeting at Christ Church, Oxford, England. The forum is named after the late Sir Halford Mackinder, the founder of the mysticism-ridden imperial theory of “geopolitics.”

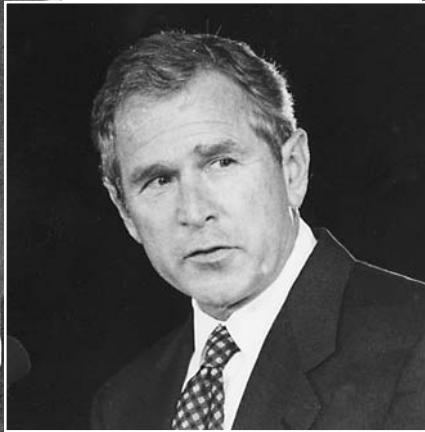
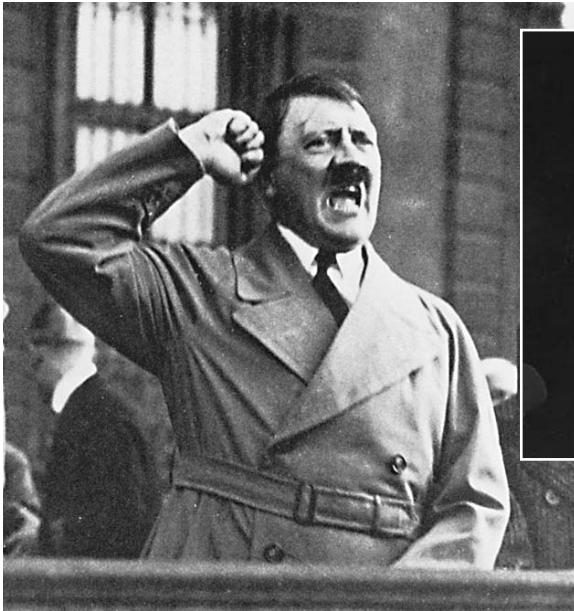
The gathering is being sponsored by the Strategic and Combat Studies Institute of the British Sandhurst Military Academy, based in Camberley, Surrey. It will be addressed by British Gen. Sir Rupert Smith, NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander-Europe, on “Geopolitics: A Tool for Strategic Analysis.” Attendance at the by-invitation-only event will bring together the All Souls, Oxford Foreign Policy Studies Program, and leading British and American strategists. Certain of the latter have had, or continue to have close relationships with the George Bush apparatus in the United States.

The Orchestration of World War I

Mackinder codified what has become known as “classical geopolitical theory,” in a number of books and articles spanning the period of the late 1880s through the mid-1940s. The theory grounded the notion of strategy, in the geographical factors of a nation or region, and treated the activities and operations of the human mind as, at most, an epiphenomenon of these factors. Ultimately, “geopolitics” is of the same order as the “blood and soil” belief-structures that motivated the Nazis. It is hardly an accident, that Adolf Hitler’s pet geopolitician, Karl Haushofer, borrowed many of his ideas from Mackinder.

Mackinder’s ideas of the importance of the struggle to control the “Eurasian Landmass,” or “Eurasian Heartland,” and of the necessity for the “Anglo-American rim powers” to prevent the dominance of any one single or group of powers in Eurasia, provided an important ideological and conceptual basis for British King Edward VII’s orchestration of the events leading into World War I. Already in 1904, Mackinder was warning that the development of rail networks on the European continent represented an emerging mortal threat to the British Empire.

For the Oxford gathering, Mackinder’s core concepts have been assembled in a new book, *Geopolitics, Geography, and Strategy*, edited by two of the leading British geopoliticians today, Geoffrey Sloan of the Britannia Naval War College in Dartmouth, and Colin S. Gray of the University of



Followers of the Mackinder school of geopolitics, left to right: Adolf Hitler, George W. Bush, and Britain's King Edward VII.



Hull. In 1988, Sloan wrote a book-length study, "Geopolitics in United States Strategic Policy: 1890-1987," heralding the Mackinder-ite ideas of U.S. strategists, from the 19th century's Admiral Mahan, the godfather of the "sea power" doctrine, to Henry Kissinger.

The Coming Geopolitical War

An individual deeply involved in the launch of the Mackinder Forum said that a primary aim of the British participants, is to "impede Britain's drift into the continental European mess," and, instead, to "strengthen transatlantic ties" between Britain and the United States. One idea being actively promoted, is that of Hollinger Corp. head Conrad Black, for Britain to join the North American Free Trade Agreement.

According to this individual, what must be looked into, is Mackinder's concepts of the "fulcrum of power" and "geographical pivot," as these concepts shifted, in Mackinder's thinking, in his 1904, 1919, and 1943 writings. Increasingly, as time went on into the 1940s, Mackinder warned that the entire area of the Soviet Union had become this "pivot" or "fulcrum," threatening to engulf the entire "Eurasian Heartland." His ravings in this regard, were a key contribution to launching the Cold War. In recent times, the Mackinder Forum strategist went on, "after the Cold War ended," a growing number of geopoliticians have insisted that that "pivot," or "fulcrum," was "shifting westward, to China and the Pacific Rim." This, he insisted, is a wrong focus, asserting:

"The fulcrum of power is, and will be for the coming decades, the Caspian, Aegean, and eastern Mediterranean, into the Balkans. What defines that, is the combination of the vast gas and oil, and how those energy resources must be transported. All of this is much more important, respecting how we deal with Russia, than what is happening in the Bal-

tics, and in Central and Eastern Europe. The real focus of the future, as far as the Russians are concerned, will be the push into the Caucasus. If [Russian President Vladimir] Putin restores Russia's economic strength, the Caucasus will be the jump-off point for Russian operations into the Caspian Sea. That must be our focus."

Dubya Bush Discovers 'the Eurasian Landmass'

Mackinder's ideas have, in recent years, formed the underpinning for such U.S.-based geopoliticians as Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, and are now playing a seminal role in formulating a foreign policy for Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush. On Nov. 19, 1999, Bush made striking references to Mackinder's geopolitical doctrines. To be sure that Bush would not confuse Eurasia with Asia Minor, his speech was prepared by his foreign policy team, whose leader is former Bush Administration official Condoleezza Rice.

Said George W. Bush: "Today I want to talk about Europe and Asia . . . the world's strategic heartland . . . our greatest priority. Home of longtime allies, and looming rivals. Behind the United States, Eurasia has the next six largest economies. The next six largest military budgets. The Eurasian landmass, in our century, has seen the indignities of colonialism and the excesses of nationalism. . . . In this immense region, we are guided, not by an ambition, but by a vision. A vision in which no great power, or coalition of great powers, dominates or endangers our friends. In which America encourages stability from a position of strength. . . . The challenge comes because two of Eurasia's greatest powers—China and Russia—are powers in transition. . . . China is rising, and that is inevitable. . . . China is a competitor, not a strategic partner. . . . If I am President, China will find itself . . . not unchecked."