

# Africa Report by Douglas DeGroot

## Obama Blames Africa for Its Problems

*Addressing the Parliament in Accra, the U.S. President ignored Ghana's historic role in the fight for independence.*

In his June 11 speech to the Ghana Parliament in Accra, President Barack Obama shattered any illusions that Africans, or anyone else, may have had, that U.S. policy toward Africa would provide an alternative to the British imperial system. Not only did Obama ignore Ghana's historic, leading role in the fight for the independence of the former European colonies in Africa, but in every topic he addressed, he hewed to the imperial doctrines of the British system.

Obama made no mention of the IMF and its structural adjustment programs (SAP) which have destroyed African agriculture, forcing African nations, since the mid-1980s, to depend on food imports for their very existence, and leaving them to rely on external credit. This has resulted in debt service payments that exceed the value of aid received, leading to a net outflow of resources. The IMF and its lackeys blame this debt crisis on corrupt African leaders.

Obama also made no mention of the collapse of the world monetary system, and the ramifications of that collapse for Africa.

Taking the approach of British system institutions, as well as George Soros's Open Society, Obama charged that African countries were failing because of corruption, and a lack of democracy and good governance, without mentioning that these conditions were built in by the former colonizers, with their focus on fostering ethnic conflict to make the colonies more manageable. Instead of proposing an alternative infrastructural development program to counter the global collapse, Obama threatened that under his Presidency,

the United States would pay greater attention to corruption in human rights reports on African countries.

Public-private investments, which have to be approved by the financial sector of the British system, was all Obama could come up with, to promote development. He also advocated the dead-end forms of "energy": wind, solar, and biofuel. He promised that the United States would do more to promote trade and investment in this area. For health needs, aggravated by the lack of infrastructural development, he promised to continue George Bush's policies, throwing in e-health initiatives.

The President's comments on Zimbabwe were proof that his knowledge of Africa is worse than superficial, and that he was reading from a prepared script. He stated that the "West" was not responsible for the destruction of the Zimbabwe economy. He apparently doesn't know about the British Empire's anti-Zimbabwe offensive. At the 1979 British Lancaster House agreement to grant independence to Zimbabwe:

1) The British demanded that the new Zimbabwe government assume the debts of its oppressor, the Ian Smith outlaw regime;

2) that the British government agreed to settle the issue of land distribution (Africans had been herded off the best farmland by the colonizers), but reneged on this agreement in 1997, shortly after Tony Blair became Prime Minister;

3) that when the Zimbabwe government subsequently began implementing land reform on its own, the British government retaliated by withdrawing all budgetary aid to Zimba-

bwe, and getting other industrial countries to do the same. Since Zimbabwe was dependent on aid for about 50% of its budget, the economy collapsed. The British, to this day, blame this collapse on the Zimbabwe government.

Africans are wondering if Obama's idea of good governance means being subservient, foregoing industrial development, and doing as you are told.

Demonstrating how completely he has become an anglophile, Obama made only passing reference to Kwame Nkrumah, the historic leader of Ghana's fight for independence from the British, which resulted in Ghana becoming the first European colony in Africa to become independent, in 1957. Obama said that at this point in time, "We've learned that it will not be giants like Nkrumah and Kenyatta who will determine Africa's future." He emphasized that this time, it will be the people of Ghana, as long as democracy and good governance reigns.

The British systematically conquered Ghana militarily during the 1800s. During the 1940s, the movement for independence in Ghana gained momentum after the British opened fire in Accra (Ghana's capital) on a large contingent of former service men, who were peacefully carrying a petition to the governor to seek redress of their grievances. Joseph Danquah and other leading nationalists founded the United Gold Coast Convention in August 1947, and invited Kwame Nkrumah, who had studied in the United States 1935-45, to lead the group's campaign for representative self-government (but Nkrumah and Danquah were jailed after troops fired on demonstrators, and a riot erupted in 1948).

In 1949, The Convention People's Party, organized by Nkrumah, began organizing a mass movement for independence, staging strikes. The opposition of chiefs, through whom the British had ruled, was not enough to sabotage the Nkrumah-led drive for independence.