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Carl Teichrib, Chief Editor

Freshening Up

By Carl Teichrib

A change is taking place: *Forcing Change* is “freshening up” with a new look for its monthly publication. In the next few months, changes will also be happening in different sections of the website – more documents for the Source Document library section (currently, there is almost 6000 pages of material), more video feeds, added audio files, and linked graphics and buttons to navigate easier – among other important alterations.

What won’t change is FC’s commitment to analyze and examine critical issues in politics, economics, and socio-religious movements, and the many sub-topics that gravitate around these primary focal points. *Forcing Change* is meant to be an educational service – helping you to understand the bigger pictures – and assisting in developing filters so you can better judge the changes taking place in your country, community, workplace, church, school, and society at large.

To that end, this issue of *Forcing Change* has two main articles; the first, a look at the social fabric of western society, including the trends and patterns in family structures. As the article relates, it’s not all bad. Moreover, for those young people who are attempting to build a balanced, traditional family, we who have gone on before have a responsibility to offer encouragement, support, and hope.



The second article takes a look at the geopolitical ripples that are, and will be emanating from the long-term tensions in south-eastern Europe. Ironically, this article was written just before Bosnian-Serb war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic was arrested, making headlines world-wide. Behind the news-feeds, and the complex undercurrents of this region, a larger geopolitical picture emerges – one that frames the aspirations of the international community.

A third article of sorts is found at the back of this issue; a compilation of short news stories titled “Fast Facts on World Change,” which takes a look at various internationally significant actions.

Finally, a Summer 2008 Supplement has been published by *Forcing Change*. Over 40 pages in length, this supplement takes a look at the health of the US economy through a series of stock charts. It’s an eye-opening report; one that you can now download from the FC member section of the website. **FC**

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Families in the Western World Enduring Perilous Times

By REAL Women of Canada

Editor's Note:

The following article, used by permission of REAL Women of Canada, demonstrates some of the changes impacting society – both positive and negative. Although the article is aimed at a Canadian audience, it speaks to the Western world as a whole.

REAL Women of Canada is an independent organization working to defend the basis of the family as the foundation of a healthy society. You can access the organization at www.realwomenca.com. This article was originally printed in the July/August 2008 issue of *REALity*, the newsletter of REAL Women of Canada.

The organization's mailing address is located at the bottom of this article.



One of the most vital social indicators of the strength of a society is the condition and strength of its families. Judging by family statistics, it appears we are living in troubling times in the western world, including Canada. Much of the difficulties with families is due to the increase in common-law and same-sex marriages, which have weakened traditional marriage. Common-law and same-sex marriage relationships are not as stable as legally married husband and wife relationships.

Common-Law Relationships

According to Statistics Canada, by the time they are 10 years old, 63% of children with parents living in a common-law union, have seen their parents separate, compared with only 14% of children whose parents were married and had not previously lived common-law.

Same-Sex Marriages

Same-sex marriages appear to be more prone to dissolution than heterosexual marriages, with the literature indicating that few homosexual relationships last longer than 2 – 3 years. Other studies indicate an even shorter period of duration for such relationships. For example, a study of homosexual men in

The Netherlands found a duration of only 1.5 years. The short duration of same-sex couples' relationships creates instability and insecurity in the lives of children living within them.

In comparison, in Canada, according to the National Longitudinal Survey of 23,000 children by Statistics Canada, 86% of legally married opposite-sex couples remain together over a 10-year period. In 2001, the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics Study on marriage and divorce statistics reported that 66% of first marriages last 10 years or longer, with 50% lasting 20 years or longer.

This is one of the reasons that the American College of Pediatricians concluded, in January 2004, that same-sex parents are not an acceptable alternative to heterosexual parenting.

Non-traditional Arrangements Becoming Acceptable

Non-traditional arrangements, however, are becoming more socially acceptable, which signals that traditional marriage has become, for some, merely an optional lifestyle choice and an occasion for a gala, with a bride and groom being the central figures in the entertainment. That is, marriage in many cases is no longer perceived as two individuals solemnly joining together in a union intended to last a lifetime, but is seen, instead, as just a celebration to bring together family and friends. All too frequently marriage has ceased to be an important occasion to witness the formation of a family unit, which is, to form a part of the foundation of society.

Unfortunately, when society tells the young that marriage is optional, a growing number choose the path of least resistance, and join together informally, frequently changing partners in common-law relationships. This is bad for children because of the lack of permanency of the relationship and, therefore, bad for society.



The Traditional Family In Canada

Living arrangements of children under 14 years of age indicate increased lone parent and common-law parenting and a relative decrease of traditional family upbringing.

<i>Living arrangements for children aged 14 and under:</i>			
	1981	2001	2006
Lived with parents	81.2%	68.4%	65.7%
Lived with common law union	4.5%	12.8%	14.6%
Lived with lone parent	13.1% approximation	17.8%	18.3%
Statistics Canada, Family Portrait - 2006 census analysis			

Births:

According to the United Nations Common Database the total fertility rate of Canadian women has decreased steadily from 3.73 in 1955 to 1.56 in the year 2000 (<http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu>).

In Canada,

Out of wedlock births in 2005 were...	24.5%
Births to married parents accounted for...	63.3%
Did not state their marital status...	10.7%

(Statistics Canada Cansim Table 102 – 4506)

Divorce:

Increases in number of divorces and divorce rates indicate a weakening of marital trend over the years:					
	1921	1941	1961	1981	2003 <i>latest available</i>
Divorce rate per 100,000	6.4	21.4	36.0	271.8	223.7

The situation in Europe is even worse. For example, last year, France became the first non-Scandinavian country in Western Europe where a majority of births are now out-of-wedlock.

The European statistics (kindly provided by the World Congress of Families) are as follows:

- ✦ **France:** 50.5% of the 816,500 registered births last year were to unmarried parents, up from 48% in 2006 and up 40% from a decade ago.
- ✦ **Sweden, Norway, Estonia and Bulgaria:** out-of-wedlock births have passed the 50% mark.
- ✦ **United Kingdom:** 44% of births were to unmarried women in 2006, up a percentage point from 2005. Curiously, however, according to the office for National Statistics, the divorce rate dropped by 7% in 2006. Further, according to a CIVITAS/ISPDS survey, 70% of Britons between the ages of 20 and 35 actually want to be married.
- ✦ **Italy and Spain:** Both these so-called “Catholic” countries registered births to married couples as the norm. However, out-of-wedlock births in Spain were 27% of births, and 17% of births in Italy in 2007. This represents the doubling of out-of-wedlock births in these two countries in the past decade

In the life of any society, the place of family is central. This fact alone makes the above statistics significant and seriously complicates the lives of everyone, especially children.

Hope for the Future

Even with these troubling statistics and the world seemingly spinning into even more decadence and immorality, there is still reason for hope. This is because culture itself exhibits an ebb and flow, as surely as economies pass through cycles of ups and downs. In his book, *The Great Disruption* (1999), Francis Fukuyama cited historical examples of societies undergoing periods of moral decline followed by periods of moral recovery. The aftermath of the cultural breakdown, which the 1960s triggered, appears even now to be quietly giving way to a reassessment and some recovery of social and moral norms. Such “re-norming” will not occur in every social class all at once; in some instances, it may take hold in one stratum but not in another. This is partial progress, but progress nevertheless.



Changes in Canadian Society

We can see a few signs of some progress in Canada today in a number of ways. The abortion rate in 2005 (96,815) fell 3.2% from (100,039) in 2004. Significantly, this decline occurred mostly among women under 20 years of age. Legislation and structures have recently been put in place to shore up society, such as raising the age of consent for sexual relations from 14 to 16 years of age; drug policies which provide treatment and prevention (education) rather than accepting addiction as inevitable; and strengthening of the provisions of the Criminal law.

The best indication of all, however, that society may be turning around is that the current generation of teenagers and young adults in Canada appear in many respects to be more culturally conservative than their immediate predecessors. This conclusion is based on polls conducted by Ekos Research Associates, one of Canada's more prominent polling firms which found a marked shift in Canadians' political identification from liberal to conservative. This is not a simple opinion blip but a clear trend line. This trend also seems to be reflected in the research by University of Lethbridge sociologist, Reginald Bibby. Surveys from 1975 – 2000 called the Canada Research Project reveal with remarkable consistency that teenagers and baby boomers continue to see family as a major source of love, support and stability. Over 90% of teenagers say they intend to marry, have children and stay with the same partner for life.

One hopes their dreams, coupled with determination to make their marriages work, will overcome the current statistical trends. **FC**

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Kosovo and the International Community: Just Another Pawn in the Game

By Carl Teichrib

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Earlier this year (February 17), Kosovo made a formal declaration of independence from Serbia (former Yugoslavia). Making headlines around the world, this event demonstrated the global split that still exists among nations regarding the status of this region, with a large number of countries unwilling to officially recognize Kosovo's action (for some, recognizing Kosovo as an independent nation raises the possibility of legitimizing separatist movements in other parts of the world, such as the Basques in Spain). One thing is certain: Kosovo is part of a greater game.

Journalist Yutaka Ishiguro, writing in the March-April, 2008 issue of the *OSCE Magazine* – the official publication of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – made a very provocative statement,

“Kosovo residents of all ethnicities know only too well that their fate lies within the broader context of international diplomacy. One local journalist I talked with recently in Pristina lamented the fact that Kosovo's fate was in the hands of major powers, with the province being ‘used like a pawn in a chess game.’”¹

For those who have forgotten the world-shaking enormity of the 1999 NATO strike against Serbia, such a comment raises a question: Why would Kosovo residents feel this way?

Regardless of a person's leanings concerning the Balkan's ethnic and nationalist complexities and crisis, it's a truism that the international community has been an overwhelming reality throughout this region. This has played out on a number of fronts, including resource/infrastructure control and development,² and a large-growth sex industry, which according to Amnesty International developed in relationship to the increase in international workers and soldiers.

“In the second half of 1999, 40,000 KFOR troops were deployed and hundreds of UNMIK personnel arrived along with staff from more than 250 international NGOs. Within months of KFOR's arrival, brothels were reported around the military bases occupied by international peace-keepers. Kosovo soon became a major destination country for women trafficked into forced prostitution. A small-scale local market for prostitution was transformed into a large-scale industry based on trafficking predominantly run by organized criminal networks...

...By late 1999 the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had reported on significant organized prostitution in four locations close to major concentrations

of KFOR troops. Most of the clients were reported to be members of the international military presence, while some KFOR soldiers were allegedly also involved in the trafficking process itself.

Eighteen premises were identified, including in the Gnjilane/Gjilan area, where clients included US military personnel; in Prizren, where users reportedly included German KFOR soldiers and other internationals; in Pejë/Pea, where residents reported Italian KFOR soldiers as clients; and in Mitrovicë/a, where French KFOR reportedly patronized make-shift brothels.

Since then, there has been an unprecedented escalation in trafficking in Kosovo.^{“3}

Beyond these factors, just the international list of who's who in the Balkan region is enough to provide a taste of the global flavour. The following is a short list of international and national powers that have been active in this part of Europe since the mid-1990s.

Multi-national powers:

- NATO (besides its 1999 bombing campaign in support of Kosovo and its continued presence on the ground, NATO is now engaged in training “independent Kosovo” security forces).
- United Nations (the list of UN agencies and offices is substantial).
- The European Union/European Commission.
- the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.
- both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
- the G8 Foreign Ministers group.
- the Holy See (technically a religious-state, but with a unique global reach).
- and a host of lesser bodies and non-governmental organizations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Crisis Group.



National powers (which include military/intelligence elements):

- United States of America (including the State Department, the US Agency for International Aid, and a host of other agencies)
- Great Britain - Germany
- France
- Italy
- Canada
- Russia
- and dozens of others, including Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, which supplied military hardware and training under a US-led program to upgrade Bosnia's fighting capability (Note: Bosnia falls within the parameters of the Kosovo/Serb complex). And Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, along with other Islamic nations, provided significant monetary contributions for Bosnian weapons procurement.⁴

On this level alone it's understandable why Kosovo residents would feel that "their fate lies within the broader context of international diplomacy." After all, Kosovo, and the Balkans in general, have been the epicentre of a long-standing opera where global players are front and centre. Moreover, this opera extends well beyond Kosovo and the larger Eastern European zone. When considering the following statements, it's not too difficult to ascertain some of the deeper meanings behind this play.

1999: Dr. Henry Perritt (member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Dean of the Chicago-Kent School of Law from 1997-2002).

"The UN Security Council has supplanted Yugoslav's sovereign government in Kosovo... That is a powerful example, and I would submit to you, probably the most powerful example of an international legal institution replacing sovereignty with a new kind of mechanism to protect human rights. It's a watershed in international law."⁵

1999: Peter W. Rodman (former White House and State Department official).

"A success in Kosovo...would guarantee the primacy of NATO in Europe's future. There would be no doubt that NATO was the pre-eminent and indispensable security institution on the continent."⁶

1999: Zbigniew Brzezinski (former US National Security Advisor). NOTE: This is an interview between Zbigniew Brzezinski and Charlie Rose regarding Kosovo.

ZB: "This is the first really complex challenge to American global leadership, and if we falter here, the consequences would be devastating. In the first instance for Europe, secondly for the American-European relationship, thirdly for our position in the world, and then, in a sense, more generally, for the kind of world that we will be living in, in the next few years. So in a microcosm, this is a real test case of what the world is about to be."

CR: "So if someone says to the President; 'Make the case why Kosovo is important,' you'd say; 'This is a microcosm of the way the world is going to be...'"

BZ: "That's right."

CR: "...in the near future."

BZ: "[this] signals something very important; namely the emergence of what might be called [a] global code of conduct..."⁷

After the 1999 NATO-Kosovo/Serbian conflict, an international committee was established to define the new global “code of conduct.”

Lloyd Axworthy, Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs during the conflict, talks of this development in his book, *Navigating a New World*.

“Events in the Balkans, most specifically in Kosovo, brought to a head the crucial decision of international humanitarian intervention. It was to be a catalyst in promoting a serious assessment of the meaning of human security. It came down to this question: If this new norm of humanitarian protection of people was to become a prime responsibility, and when necessary trump the long-held principle of national sovereignty, then was international military intervention justified to enforce this standard, and if so, under what conditions.

The effort to answer that question occupied a good part of my attention and interest during my last year at Foreign Affairs. I held discussions with the secretary-general of the UN, who expressed strong concerns on the intervention issue, and concurred on the need to set up a body to examine the question. That led to the establishment of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, one of the last and most important of my initiatives.”⁸

The final outcome of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) never hit mainstream news, yet its conclusion was far-reaching. Because of Kosovo – and other bloody civil conflicts such as Rwanda – ICISS recommended that national sovereignty be superseded by a new code of ethics called the “Responsibility to Protect” (R2P). This evolving concept recognized that the international community could militarily intervene in the affairs of nations if the country in question was engaged in genocide and/or other forms of humanitarian abuses and crisis.

While the motives initially appeared honourable, the R2P concept, if entrenched as a legal norm, is seriously flawed. How, when, and where does the international community cross the line in terms of national sovereignty? What constitutes intervention, and when should the world advance or holdback?

These are not easy questions to answer. No one in their right mind wishes for any people group to experience genocide or gross abuses. At the same time, if R2P ever attains a firm legal basis, a type of Pandora’s Box will be opened.

José E. Alvarez, President of the American Society of International Law, recognized this situation while addressing a conference on international law at The Hague in 2003. R2P, he suggested, could be used as a context to engage in all sorts of questionable, interventionist actions: from “a duty to protect national artefacts” during America’s Iraqi invasion to the actual justification for the attack, from implementing counter-terrorism treaties to preventing nation states from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction, from the “use of military force to promote democracies and the rule of law” to responses



against American war excesses.⁹

Reviewing the twenty-first century security agenda and R2P, the Stanley Foundation noted the following in 2004.

“On the sovereignty front, the Iraq war – which the Bush administration has increasingly rationalized ex post facto on the grounds of Saddam Hussein’s repression and atrocities – has prompted fears that the United States will use humanitarian claims as a pretext for intervening unilaterally.”¹⁰

Although the US never actually called on the R2P principle for justification of invasion, the Stanley Foundation comment does raise concerns regarding how R2P - “humanitarian action” - could be used as a mask for other motives.

On another level, R2P has been latched onto by world federalists as a rallying call for United Nations empowerment, stating that the UN should have its own military/police units and the legal power to intervene where it felt necessary. The idea of forming a UN commanded and controlled military force isn’t new. Trygve Lie, the first UN Secretary General, called for a UN military force in 1948.¹¹ Today, many world federalists see R2P as a potential steppingstone towards the creation an exclusive UN-commanded force, or to some other integrated system incorporating NATO and other regional military bodies into a United Nations-R2P response force.

If the R2P idea develops into a legitimate, operating framework – presumably under the United Nations – its roots will lie, to large extent, in the bloody soils of Kosovo.

Conceivably, however, the world community doesn’t need R2P to intervene in other nation’s affairs. Granted, R2P may offer international players a new tool for global governance, but



as the US Army War College recently noted, the Kosovo incident already demonstrated the use of humanitarian claims for other purposes. Mirroring, to some extent, the earlier statement made by Dr. Perritt that the UN's supplanting of Yugoslav's sovereign government is "probably the most powerful example of an international legal institution replacing sovereignty...", the US Army War College *Guide to National Security Policy and Strategy* states,

"The conflict in Kosovo was clearly an example of intervention by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into the 'internal affairs' of Serbia (recall that Kosovo was an integral part of Serbia in the policy of all the states involved). Very little of the national interest of NATO powers, narrowly conceived, was involved in Kosovo. It was a case where humanitarian causes and human rights were cited to 'trump' Serbian sovereignty."¹²

This is an incredible admission. So what were some of the strategic reasons for international intervention in the Balkans?

Wesley Clark, the American General in charge of the NATO campaign, provides some clues.

"It was coercive diplomacy, the use of armed forces to impose the political will of the NATO nations on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, or more specifically, on Serbia...

...This conflict about Kosovo became a test of NATO's role in post-Cold War Europe. NATO itself was at risk of irrelevance or simply falling apart following a defeat. Even those governments that could have survived operational failure could not afford to lose NATO."¹³

Another clue can be found in a Stanley Foundation document, *US Strategies for Regional Security*,

"European nations are engaged in the Balkans not primarily for humanitarian reasons but for the long-term protection of their own security interests against the dangers of nearby instability."

In other words, for participating European countries, the idea was to stem the violence before it spilled throughout the continent. While this may have been a necessary action, it was masked behind "humanitarian" language; a concept that national populations would have found easier to swallow than "NATO relevance," or a new code of conduct supplanting sovereignty, or enhancing continental security.

Finally, the US Army War College document, *War in the Balkans*, provides a host of strategic reasons that go far beyond meeting the needs of protecting local populations.

"The end of the cold war system from 1989 onward seemed to open up new prospects for great power activism, and the Yugoslav disaster provided a convenient opportunity to test long dormant mechanisms for international crisis management. From the first days of combat operations in Slovenia, the activist role of the international community contributed importantly to shaping outcomes. Even had a will to intervene not been so clearly manifest, the dynamic of the conflict itself made some degree of international engagement an imperative. The option to 'let them fight it out among themselves' was never quite as attractive in practice as some have perceived it to be in retrospect. The incapacity of local actors to resolve their differences short of a resort to arms was revealed early on, and the conflict posed numerous issues with larger significance, including the integrity of Europe, the future of the UN and UN-sponsored peacekeeping operations, the viability of NATO, relations with the new Russian Federation, the role of militant Islam and relations between the West and the Islamic world, and the post cold war responsibilities of the American superpower."¹⁵

And of course, as noted early by Zbigniew Brzezinski, “the creation of global code of conduct.” So much for “humanitarian concerns.”

No wonder the Pristina-based journalist felt that Kosovo was being “used like a pawn in a chess game.” **FC**

Endnotes:

¹ Yutaka Ishiguro, “The OCSE news beat: Connecting the dots on the international agenda,” *OSCE Magazine*, March-April, 2008, p.10.

² One example of resource control: In 1999, the International Crisis Group produced a report titled *Trepca: Making Sense of the Labyrinth* (November 1999), suggesting that the vast Trepca mining and smelting complex be seized by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. - “UNMIK should as a priority build up the staff capacity to assert total control over Trepca in accordance with the terms of its stewardship of Kosovo, take over the installations and announce a modest programme of action for a ‘pre-donor phase’ of rehabilitation.”

According to a *New York Times* article, the Trepca mining complex is one of the richest in Europe, constituting an enormous economic prize. See the NYT, July 8, 1998 article, “Stari Tng Journal; Below It All in Kosovo, A War’s Glittering Prize.” This article can be found in the NYT online archives.

³ Amnesty International, *Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro): “So does it mean that we have the rights?” Protecting the human rights of women and girls trafficked for forced prostitution in Kosovo*. This document can be found on the Amnesty International website.

⁴ US General Accounting Office, *Bosnia Peace Operations*, GAO/NSIAD-99-138, pp.169-171.

⁵ Statement made during a presentation at the Campaign for UN Reform membership meeting, Saturday, June 19, 1999, in Chicago. Audio of this event held in private archive.

⁶ Peter W. Rodman, “The Fallout from Kosovo,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 1999, p.46.

⁷ *The Charlie Rose Show*, March 25, 1999.

⁸ Lloyd Axworthy, *Navigating a New World* (Random House, 2003), p.157.

⁹ José E. Alvarez, *The Schizophrenias of R2P*, Panel Presentation at the 2007 Hague Joint Conference on Contemporary Issues of International Law: Criminal Jurisdiction 100 Years After the 1907 Hague Peace Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands, June 30, 2007.

¹⁰ The Stanley Foundation, *Capturing the 21st Century Security Agenda: Prospects for Collective Responses*, 2004, pp.76-77.

¹¹ Trygve Lie, *In the Cause of Peace* (Macmillan, 1954), pp.98-99.

¹² Martin L. Cook, “Ethical Issues in War: An Overview,” *US Army War College Guide to National Security Policy and Strategy* (US Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2006), pp.28-29.

¹³ General Wesley K. Clark, *Waging Modern War* (Public Affairs, 2001), pp.418, 422.

¹⁴ The Stanley Foundation, *US Strategies for Regional Security* (2001), p.25.

¹⁵ R. Craig Nation, *War in the Balkans, 1991-2002* (US Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2003), p.XI

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Fast Facts on World Change

By Carl Teichrib

A Call for a United Africa

Bono, the lead singer for the mega-music group, U2, called for the creation of a United States of Africa while at a Japanese conference on development during the last week of May.

Coincidentally, African leaders from Gabon, Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Libya, and Senegal met only a few days earlier in Tanzania (May 22), to “discuss matters concerning the political and economic integration on the continent.”¹ Dubbed the Arusha Summit, this event was chaired by the current leader of the African Union (AU), President Kikwete, and was fuelled by an earlier AU meeting in Addis Ababa (January 31-February 2, 2008) that specifically sought ways to enhance economic and political unification.

Although Bono’s action may provide a publicity component, the real action lies within the realm of hard politics. Regional and global players assisting the African Union and its member states towards deeper integration include the following,

- Regional Economic Communities: such as the Economic Community of Central African States and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- the African Development Bank (AfDB)
- the European Commission

Pan-Africanism has a long history (spanning back to 1900), with the 1958 Accra conference acting as a major hinge point. During this historic event, it was determined that African unification could only occur after four stages were obtained.

1. “the attainment of freedom and independence,”
2. “the consolidation of that freedom and independence,”
3. “the creation of unity and community between the African states,”
4. “and the economic and social reconstruction of Africa.”²

Watch as Africa, and other parts of the world, increasingly turn to regionalism as an integral part of the globalization process.

Global Warming Petition

The Petition Project, which started almost ten years ago, is a petition by the scientific community “in opposition to the human-caused global warming hypothesis rather than in favor of it.”³

Presently, over 31,000 scientists and experts have signed the petition, including more than 9,000 PhD holders. The petition reads,

“We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human released carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth’s atmosphere and disruption of the Earth’s climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.”

A recent *WorldNetDaily* article on the Petition Project provided some extra detail.

“The petition is needed, supporters said, simply because Gore and others ‘have claimed that the ‘science is settled’ – that an overwhelming ‘consensus’ of scientists agrees with the hypothesis of human-caused global warming, with only a handful of skeptical scientists in disagreement.

...The list of scientists includes 9,021 Ph.D.s, 6,961 at the master’s level, 2,240 medical doctors and 12,850 carrying a bachelor of science or equivalent academic degree.”⁴

China’s Expansion into Africa and Latin America

China’s growing need for resources is re-shifting the global chessboard. According to reports from the Heritage Foundation and the US War College Strategic Studies Institute, China’s foreign footprint is steadily expanding.

From the Heritage Foundation’s Backgrounder report, *China’s Influence in Africa: Implications for the United States*.

“China’s sharply accelerating domestic energy demand, combined with declining domestic petroleum production and insufficient coal output, has spurred Beijing to pursue stable overseas sources of hydrocarbon fuels. By 2004, China had become the world’s second largest oil consumer, behind only the United States. Chinese oil consumption is expected to increase by 10 percent per year, while China’s oil and gas imports are forecast to increase from the present 33 percent of China’s total oil and gas demand to 60 percent by 2020. Asian oil and natural gas production is not growing fast enough to meet Chinese demand, and a large portion of Middle Eastern oil and gas production is normally allotted to U.S. and European markets.

In an attempt to gain control over its oil and gas consumption needs as world spot market prices rise precipitously, Beijing has focused on African nations as likely hydrocarbon acquisition targets. An estimated 25 percent of China’s total oil imports currently comes from Africa, and Beijing has placed a high priority on maintaining strong ties with its

African energy suppliers through investment, high-level visits, and a strict policy of 'non interference in internal affairs' that Africa's dictators find comforting.

Chinese government firms have invested billions of dollars in foreign exchange and have used Chinese engineering and construction resources on infrastructure for developing oil, gas, mineral, and other natural resources in dozens of African countries, including Algeria, Angola, Gabon, Nigeria, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.”⁵

Janie Hulse, an international researcher and communication specialist, recently wrote a report for the US War College outlining China's interest in Latin America communication industries. Hulse's analysis is telling.

“Chinese involvement in Latin American space and telecommunication industries has implications for U.S. National Security. Unlike other commercial activities geared toward supplying raw materials to China's 1.3 billion inhabitants, Chinese investment in space and telecommunications implies broader commercial and strategic interests that potentially put the Chinese into Western Hemisphere air and space...

...The Chinese are long-term strategists who have proven themselves competent in the area of information technology. They are not averse to espionage, and their current military doctrine emphasizes Information Warfare as a means of overcoming military power asymmetries. How they may use their growing presence in Latin America's space and telecommunications sectors remains unknown, but potential threats for the United States exist. It is in the United States' security interest to monitor the expansion of Chinese involvement in the information technology fields of space and telecommunications in the Western Hemisphere.”⁶

Hulse continues,

“Chinese companies are aggressively positioning themselves for success in strategic industries of developing economies. Over the next 10 years, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts the pace of growth from emerging economies to be double that of developed nations. Chinese companies doing business outside of China are mostly state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that are providing government incentives to penetrate strategic industries in the developing world. Unlike purely profit seeking U.S. Companies, Chinese SOEs, cushioned by generous lines of credit, are not averse to entering into uneconomical deals. They tend to be driven less by market and profit considerations and more by their government's strategy to establish strategic footholds and lock up resources.”⁷

Rock Stars, Aid Money, and War

In May, the *New Zealand Herald* published an article on international aid, revealing that, “Billions of dollars raised for African famine relief by celebrities Bono and Bob Geldof have instead funded civil war across the continent.”

“That huge amount of aid, which includes money from the United Nations and donations generated by Live Aid for Ethiopia, organised by Geldof, and the Live concert in 2005, organised by Bono, has instead 'served as a rogue force, notably as an important form of terrorist financing' in countries such as Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya. Ethiopia, for example, received \$1.8 billion in foreign aid between 1982-85, including a large contribution from Live Aid; \$1.6 billion of that, she

[Dr Loretta Napoleoni, an author on global economics] points out, was spent on buying military equipment.”⁸

As the *New Zealand Herald* pointed out, “The cult of celebrity means that people who are famous for nothing more than being pop or movie stars speak out on issues they don’t fully understand.”

Dr. Napoleoni hit the nail on the head, “The problem of Africa is corruption.” She also told the *New Zealand Herald*,

“These people [Bono and Geldof] don’t realise they are being manipulated by politicians and others. That is the case in the relationship between Bono and [American economist] Jeffrey Sachs, who is among the people who caused the chaos of the transition of the former communist countries into free-market economics. Sachs has been trying to relaunch himself as a sort of economist celebrity so he has been linking himself to Bono...Bono is repeating what he has been told about Africa. I am sure Bono hasn’t got a clue about economics.’

Napoleoni, who knows Geldof as a neighbour in the London suburb of Battersea, says he told her the first Live Aid was the ‘worse experience of his life because he found it very difficult to control where the money went. He suddenly realised it’s easy to put famous musicians together to make money but to bring the money to the people in need is another matter.”[see footnote 8]

NOTE: A very powerful book on international aid and charity is *The Road to Hell: The Ravaging Effects of Foreign Aid and International Charity*, by former Peace Corp and USAID worker, Michael Maren. In many respects, the *New Zealand Herald* article dovetails Maren’s important exposé. **FC**

Endnotes:

¹ *Africa News*, “Africa: Leaders discuss Union government,” www.africanews.com/site/list_messages/18422, May 22, 2008.

² Adekunle Ajala, *Pan-Africanism: Evolution, Progress and Prospects* (St. Martin’s Press, 1973), pp.17-18.

³ Petition Project, www.petitionproject.org. See the FAQ section.

⁴ “31,000 scientists reject ‘global warming’ agenda: Mr. Gore’s movie has claims no informed expert endorses,” *WorldNetDaily*, May 19, 2008.

⁵ Heritage Foundation, *China’s Influence in Africa: Implications for the United States*. February 22, 2006, www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/bg1916.cfm

⁶ Janie Hulse, *China’s Expansion into and U.S. Withdrawal from Argentina’s Telecommunications and Space Industries and the Implications for U.S. National Security*, US Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, September 2007, pp.1-2.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p.3

⁸ “Money raised for Africa ‘goes to civil wars,’” *New Zealand Herald*, May 14, 2008, Online edition.

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