A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Like Obama, Blair was charismatic, eloquent, hip, and relaxed, in cruel contrast to the bunch of sleazy, incompetent throwbacks to the paleolithic era in the departing Conservative administration. Like Obama, Blair was seen as a messiah figure, who would lay his hands upon a broken nation and bring healing where there was discord. And like Obama, Blair had an agenda of change... What few realized at the time was that in fact he was a radical of a different stripe. He wanted to remake Britain and even change human nature itself, wiping out prejudice and ushering in a new world order of progressivism.

Accordingly, his government either directly promoted or did nothing to stop the long march through Britain's institutions – the systematic undermining of the country's fundamental values and traditions, in line with the cultural Marxism strategy of the philosopher Antonin Gramsci. It tore up Britain's (unwritten) constitution, devolving power to Scotland and changing the composition of the upper parliamentary chamber, the House of Lords, destroying the delicate equilibrium of the balance of power. It also set about changing the identity of the country.

Promoting the doctrine of multiculturalism, it opened Britain's doors to mass immigration. In the state-controlled schools, teachers no longer saw their role as the transmission of Britain's historic culture, which was "racist"; accordingly, children were not taught the history of their country, but instead a concept of 'citizenship' which was all about changing the values of the country.

It undermined marriage, promoting instead "lifestyle choice" by incentivising lone parenthood (official forms no longer refer to husband and wives, merely "partners"). It discouraged prison sentences because criminals were said to be victims of life and jail would make them worse.

Obama has talked about remedying what he sees as the flaws in the U.S. Constitution which promotes only "negative liberties," or freedom from something rather than positive rights to something. Well, through human-rights legislation Britain has exchanged its historic concept of "negative" liberty - everything is permitted unless it is actively prohibited - for the 'positive' European idea that only what is codified is to be permitted.

As a result, freedom has shrunk to what ideology permits. Equality legislation has cemented a "victim culture" under which the interests of all groups deemed to be powerless (black people, women, gays) trump those deemed to be powerful (white people, men, Christians).

Since this doctrine holds that the "powerless" can do no wrong while the "powerful" can do no right, injustice is thus institutionalized, and anyone who queries the preferential treatment afforded such groups is vilified as a racist or bigot. All this constitutes a profoundly illiberal culture in which no dissent is permitted, group is set against group and intimidation is the order of the day..."

Melanie Phillips: "How Britain Committed National Suicide: Tips on conserving and protecting from across the pond." November 2008

"ON SAVING WESTERN CIVILISATION : PART I by James Reed: Much of the time of writers at this site (myself, Simpson, Wilson, Ewer, Len the Cleaner, etc.) is spent in "Emergencies Services" work, fighting day-to-day media bushfires. We try to hose down the thoughts of the inner-city intellectual elites as expressed primarily in the print media, books, electronic media and sometimes, website bloggs. (I hate that word. I usually forget the 'l'.) This is an important service because it represents opposition to the thoughts of the cultural elites. People can seek an alternative viewpoint, such as in our coverage of the U.S. election.

Saving Western civilisation is in part a philosophical and religious task that involves the precise motto of the Heritage Society's journal, "linking the past with the present for the future."

This task is not performed by existing universities, which I have, I believe, adequately shown in my articles. The existing education system is rotten to the core. League writers and administrators have well recognized this and have attempted to provide sturdy philosophical foundations in the League journals, hard copy League books and its impact upon the young who want alternative views, on the internet.

The League preserves books essential for the fight to preserve Western civilization which are no longer – if they ever were – available in our libraries. As I write this I have three such books next to me.

Some illustrative comments are in order: Owen Barfield *History in English Words* (1953, 1967, with a foreword by W.H. Auden) is a deeply scholarly book that spells out the spiritual/aesthetic history of the English (and Aryan/Nordic peoples) through a study of the history embodied in English words.

Barfield speaks of the "souls of past races" which lie frozen in words. The word quality for example has its philosophical roots in Plato's theory of the forms – *transmaterial* essences to which objects in the world of senses are imperfect embodiments.

During the 18th century linguists came to see resemblances between European and Sanskrit languages, and concluded that these languages came from a common source. Sanskrit was found not to be the parent language. A more basic Aryan or Germanic-Indo language was postulated as being the original one. And there was an Aryan people, early Europeans who spoke it and left their language with the conquered Indian peoples.

Barfield then is attempting to give back to the English-speaking people a history which the politically correct Establishment – even the universities – have taken from them. Aryan people cannot even describe themselves as that today following Hitler's misuse of the notion. But a people should not face a conceptual oblivion merely because of one bad egg. Barfield bravely defended the historicity of Aryans even in the post-World War II period.

Barfield's *Saving the Appearances* (1965) is a profound philosophical text which analyses the nature of historical perceptions from ancient man's perception of the world (Original Participation), to the medieval period to modern man. These perceptions are what the sociologist Durkheim called "collective representations." In essence, we have moved from a world with humans in harmony with the tune of nature to a world deeply alienated from it by the final participation in scientific materialism. Humanity, through the desire to control and manipulate the world has left the garden of original participation. This theme of existential alienation lies also in the spiritual vision of the great English writer J.R.R. Tolkien and is seen well even in the film version of *The Lord of the Rings*. The dark lords prepare a "new order" by war, a war machine fuelled by the destruction of nature. Stratford Caldecott's *Secret Fire: The Spiritual Vision* of J.R.R. Tolkien explores this theme of the existential and moral threat of technological power, along with many others in Tolkien's work. Most importantly Tolkien sought to give back to the English-speaking peoples a mytho-poetic past that the machines of modernity, as surely as the march of the armies of Mordor, had silenced.

This longing for a touch of our ancestry, of a world departed, perhaps explains why *The Lord of the Rings*, after the Bible, has been one of the most widely read books of the twentieth century. I will have more to say about this in another essay.

ARCHITECTS OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE GIVEN TOP POSITIONS BY OBAMA: "Who are the Architects of Economic Collapse? And why are they being given top positions in Obama's Administration? Michel Chossudovsky, *Global Research*, November 9, 2008, writes:

Most Serious Economic Crisis in Modern History: The October 2008 financial meltdown is not the result of a cyclical economic phenomenon. It is the deliberate result of U.S government policy instrumented through the Treasury and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board.

The "bailout" proposed by the U.S. Treasury does not constitute a "solution" to the crisis. In fact quite the opposite: it is the cause of further collapse. **It triggers an unprecedented concentration of wealth, which in turn contributes to widening economic and social inequalities both within and between nations.**

The levels of indebtedness have skyrocketed. Industrial corporations are driven into bankruptcy, taken over by the global financial institutions. Credit, namely the supply of loanable funds, which constitutes the lifeline of production and investment, is controlled by a handful of financial conglomerates.

With the "bailout", the public debt has spiralled. America is the most indebted country on earth. Prior to the "bailout", the U.S public debt was of the order of 10 trillion dollars. This U.S. dollar denominated debt is composed of outstanding treasury bills and government bonds held by individuals, foreign governments, corporations and financial institutions.

"The Bailout": The U.S. Administration is Financing its Own Indebtedness: Ironically, the Wall Street banks – which are the recipients of the bailout money – are also the brokers and underwriters of the U.S. public debt. Although the banks hold only a portion of the public debt, they transact and trade in U.S. dollar denominated public debt instruments Worldwide. In a bitter twist, the banks are the recipients of a 700+ billion dollar handout and at the same time they act as creditors of the U.S. government. We are dealing with an absurd circular relationship: To finance the bailout, Washington must borrow from the banks, which are the recipients of the bailout.

The U.S. administration is financing its own indebtedness. Federal, State and municipal governments are increasingly in a straightjacket, under the tight control of the global financial conglomerates. Increasingly, the creditors call the shots on government reform. The bailout is conducive to the consolidation and a centralization of banking power, which in turn backlashes on real economic activity, leading to a string of bankruptcies and mass unemployment.

Will an Obama Administration Reverse the Tide? The financial crisis is the outcome of a deregulated financial architecture. Obama has stated unequivocally his resolve to address the policy failures of the Bush administration and "democratize" the U.S. financial system. President-Elect Barack Obama says that he is committed to reversing the tide.

"Let us remember that if this financial crisis taught us anything, it's that we cannot have a thriving Wall Street while Main Street suffers. In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people." (President-elect Barack Obama, November 4, 2008)

The Democrats casually blame the Bush administration for the October financial meltdown. Obama says that he will be introducing an entirely different policy agenda which responds to the interests of Main Street:

"Tomorrow, you can turn the page on policies that put the greed and irresponsibility of Wall Street before the hard work and sacrifice of men and women all across Main Street. Tomorrow you can choose policies that invest in our middle class and create new jobs and grow this economy so that everybody has a chance to succeed, from the CEO to the secretary and the janitor, from the factory owner to the men and women who work on the factory floor.(Barack Obama, election campaign, November 3, 2008)

Is Obama committed to "taming Wall Street" and "disarming financial markets"? Ironically, it was under the Clinton administration that these policies of "greed and irresponsibility" were adopted. The 1999 Financial Services Modernization Act (FSMA) was conducive to the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. A pillar of President Roosevelt's "New Deal", the Glass-Steagall Act was put in place in response to the climate of corruption, financial manipulation and "insider trading" which resulted in more than 5,000 bank failures in the years following the 1929 Wall Street crash.

Bill Clinton signed into law the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act, November 12, 1999. Under the 1999 Financial Services Modernization Act, effective control over the entire U.S. financial services industry (including insurance companies, pension funds, securities companies, etc.) had been transferred to a handful of financial conglomerates and their associated hedge funds.

Who are the architects of this debacle? In a bitter irony, the engineers of financial disaster are now being considered by President Elect Barack Obama's Transition Team for the position of Secretary of the Treasury:

Lawrence Summers played a key role in lobbying Congress for the repeal of the Glass Steagall act. His timely appointment in 1999 as Treasury Secretary spearheaded the adoption of the Financial Services Modernization Act in October 1999. Upon completing his mandate at the Treasury, he became president of Harvard University (2001-2006).

Paul Volker, chairman of the Federal Reserve in the 1980s during the Reagan era. He played a central role in implementing the first stage of financial deregulation, which was conducive to mass bankruptcies, mergers and acquisitions, leading up to the 1987 financial crisis.

Timothy Geithner is CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, (FRBNY) which is the most powerful <u>private</u> financial institution in America. He was also a former Clinton administration Treasury official. He has worked for Kissinger Associates and has also held a senior position at the IMF. The FRBNY plays a behind the scenes role in shaping financial policy. Geithner acts on behalf of powerful financiers, who are behind the FRBNY. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

Jon Corzine is currently governor of New Jersey, former CEO of Goldman Sachs.

At the time of writing, Obama's favourite is: Obama's favourite is Larry Summers, front-runner for the position of Treasury Secretary. Harvard University Economics Professor Lawrence Summers served as Chief Economist for the World Bank (1991-1993). He contributed to shaping the macro-economic reforms imposed on numerous indebted developing countries. The social and economic impact of these reforms under the IMF-World Bank sponsored structural adjustment program (SAP) were devastating, resulting in mass poverty. (Continued in *On Target Bulletin*)

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