## Banking by John Hoefle

## **Smashing Nations**

The British Empire is determined to make sure no national interests can foil its plan to control the globe.

Winston Churchill observed that "truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies." Churchill was ostensibly speaking about the war, but his comments reflect a deeper truth about imperial methods, a truth which has great relevance today.

The world is at the end of an era, not just the end of the present financial system, but also, if the oligarchical forces which run the Brutish Empire have their way, the era of the nation-state will also come to an end, to be replaced by a feudal system dominated by financier-run corporate cartels. Governments would exist mainly as colonial satrapies, tasked with protecting the cartels and keeping the peasants in line. Naturally, such a plan must be kept hidden from public view, its implementation protected by a bodyguard of lies.

Globalization is a key element of that plan, as it not only weakens the target nations, but also increases the power of the cartels. Under globalization, the United States has decayed from an industrial powerhouse to a nation of paper-pushers, a service economy dependent upon goods manufactured elsewhere. Even something as simple as a loaf of bread often contains ingredients from a dozen countries

Globalization is a "bodyguard" word itself, a euphemism for imperial cartelization. We in the U.S. have been told that we benefit from globalization, because our corporations dominate global trade, and we can exploit foreign workers to keep our prices

low. There is some truth in this, as products made in places where wages are low are cheaper than products made in America; but the money you save on that stereo from Wal-Mart pales in comparison to the costs of a destroyed economy. Your "savings" are an illusion, offset by costs which may be less visible, but are quite real.

As the bankruptcy of the financial system becomes ever more apparent, tectonic changes are occurring, elements of which are visible, each accompanied by its own bodyguard of lies to disguise the true nature of the changes.

Take the case of Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and his network of former Goldman Sachs bankers who form the core of the Plunge Protection Team. Part of Paulson's mandate is to preserve an American seat at the table as the world is reorganized. Pressured by the Brits, Paulson launched his MLEC plan to bail out the structured investment vehicles (SIVs), a plan which is widely seen as aimed at saving Citigroup. The result is that Paulson's credibility has taken a significant hit in financial and political circles.

Then we have James Cayne, the CEO of Bear Stearns. The Wall Street Journal, recently acquired by British propagandist Rupert Murdoch, ran an attack on Cayne Nov. 1, suggesting that he was off playing bridge and golf, and smoking dope, during the height of Bear Stearns' July hedgefund crisis. The leading shareholder in Bear Stearns, since September, is a Bahamas-based dirty money specialist, Joe Lewis, who made his fortune

in the same 1992 British-run currency warfare operation which made George Soros rich. The implication is that the British are either trying to oust Cayne, or force him to capitulate to hidden demands

At the same time, Merrill Lynch head Stan O'Neal has been dumped. While there are lots of good reasons to dump O'Neal, the reasons given by Merrill do not seem sufficient. His interim replacement as chairman, Merrill director Alberto Cribiore, will head the search for a permanent replacement. Cribiore, an Italian tied to the Venetian Agnelli apparatus, was a protégé of Lazard synarchist André Meyer.

Changes are also occurring in Europe, where Dutch banking giant ABN AMRO is being taken over by a consortium of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Fortis of Belgium, and Santander of Spain. The victory of the consortium over a competing bid from Barclays was aided by a group of hedge funds, and represents an imperial move to bust up the so-called "national champion" banks of Europe. Now, some of those same funds are acting against (or perhaps with) Venetian insurance giant Assicurazioni Generali, in what appears to be a move against the nationalist impulse in Ita-

Each of these moves has its own cover story, but taken as a whole, forms a pattern of imperial assault against national power blocs. These national blocs are not necessarily good, but to the extent that they represent nation-based obstacles to globalization, the oligarchy deems that they must be destroyed. The British Empire knows that the nation-state system, especially as envisioned by the U.S. Founding Fathers, is the greatest threat to their imperial designs, and their strategy is to destroy that idea, and with it, the hope of mankind.

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