

British Empire Targets Kenya

by Dean Andromidas

The bloodletting in Kenya following the Dec. 27 elections marks a British-orchestrated operation for chaos and destruction targeting all of Africa. Already, the Kenyan Red Cross is reporting that 300 Kenyans have lost their lives, and another 100,000 are homeless, while over 5,000 have fled to neighboring Uganda.

The director of the Kenyan Red Cross, Abbas Gullet, after visiting several violence-struck regions, told the *Mail & Guardian* of Johannesburg: “What I saw was unimaginable and indescribable. This is a national disaster.”

The disputed election results between Mwai Kibaki and his Party of National Unity (PNU), and opposition candidate Raila Odinga and his Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) serve as a pretext for throwing Kenya into chaos and destruction, with the purpose of securing the rich resources of Africa for Anglo-Dutch financial interests.

The “former” British colony, strategically located in the center of East Africa, Kenya possesses rich agricultural lands whose plantations, producing tea, coffee, and other important agricultural products, are fully controlled by British and other European companies, as are its tourist industry and other sections of the economy. These interests are buttressed by a large British military presence, including one of Britain’s largest overseas bases. Its location is a gateway to the rest of the region, including war-torn Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia in the North, while to its west is the Great Lakes region, which includes Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and the great prize of Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The grab for this region’s rich resources turned it into a war zone in the 1990s, whose killing fields took the lives of 6 million people. To the south is Tanzania and the outlying nations of southern Africa, including Mozambique, Zambia, and the British-targeted Zimbabwe and South Africa. Kenya has served as a base of operations for British-linked arms traders and mercenaries for operations in all the war zones in the region.

The gamemasters of this operation do not reside in Nairobi or Washington, but in London. One of the key controllers is Lord David Steele of Aikwood, member of the House Lords, and Her Majesty’s Privy Council. On Dec. 29, he issued a statement questioning the election results in Kenya, claiming he had warned earlier this year, that the election



The disputed results in the Dec. 27 elections between President Mwai Kibaki (left) and opposition leader Raila Odinga (above), have provided the British with a pretext for fomenting chaos and destruction in Kenya.

commission was open to fraud since it was nominated by President Mwai Kibaki. He warned, “The situation in the country is potentially extremely dangerous because of the tribal rivalries in the election. The international community must make it clear they will not accept a fraudulent result.”

No sooner had he issued this statement, than Washington, following the British lead, began to shift its policy. The United States officially recognized Kibaki’s victory on Dec. 27; two days later, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice issued a joint statement with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband that, while calling for an end to the violence and for “engage[ment] in a political and legal process to resolve the crisis,” noted “serious irregularities” in the vote-counting process. This shift only served to further fan the flames of violence.

Who Is Lord David Steele?

David Steele is a key British gamemaster throughout Africa. The son of a Church of Scotland minister who served in Kenya, Steele is a “child of the British Empire.” The former leader of Britain’s Liberal Democratic party, he plays a key role in the Liberal International. His German Liberal colleague Alexander Graff Lambsdorff headed the European Union’s election monitoring team that observed the elections and declared them irregular. Steele has been deeply involved in Kenyan politics for decades, and knows both Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga. Steele has said he has known

Kibaki for 25 years, noting with fulsome approval that the Kenyan President is a graduate of the London School of Economics. He supported Kibaki’s opposition activities against former President Daniel Arap Moi. Steele’s relationship with Raila Odinga goes even deeper. His Orange Democratic Movement is a coalition of opposition parties which includes the Liberal Democratic Party of which Odinga is chairman. This is part of the same Liberal International movement in which Steele is a key figure.

While Steele profiles himself as a great liberal concerned with building democratic institutions, this hasn’t prevented him from becoming business partners with the likes of Tony Buckingham, the founder of the notorious mercenary company, Executive Outcomes. In the 1990s, Steele served as a board member of Buckingham’s Heritage Oil and Gas company. Steele is also involved in South Africa, where he led the election observer team that oversaw South Africa’s first post-Apartheid

election in 1994; he is deeply involved with that country’s Liberal party, the Democratic Alliance, which has repeatedly attacked the African National Conference for being a corrupt and undemocratic.

Steele is also a leading board member of the Royal African Society, whose patron is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Serving as a key center for Africa policy, the Society is financed by elite British corporations including Rio Tinto PLC, Anglo American PLC, and De Beers, three of the world’s largest mining companies, exercising dominant control of mining throughout Africa; other corporate members include British American Tobacco and Standard Chartered Bank. Lord Holme of Cheltenham, a close colleague of Steele in the Liberal Democratic Party and fellow Privy Council member, is its chairman; he served as an officer in Her Majesty’s Gurkha regiment of Nepalese soldiers. His varied career saw him holding posts at Rio Tinto, and Unilever. The latter is one of the leading plantation owners in Kenya. Another old Kenya hand is Michael McWilliam, director of the London School of Oriental and African Studies, whose roots go back over 200 years ago as the training center for the British East India Company; McWilliam is also a leading member of the infamous Round Table group founded by Lord Milner.

Inciting Conflicts

The violence following the elections is characterized by ethnic clashes between supporters of President Kibaki, pri-

marily of the Kikuyu tribe, and those of opposition leader Odinga, from the Luo tribe. This is classic British colonial *modus operandi*, and a dark reminder of how the British crushed the insurgent Mau Mau movement in the 1950s. Under Col. Frank Kitson, the British were able to manipulate tribal tensions so that by 1956, the movement was crushed, with a loss of 11,000 Mau Maus and 2,000 other Africans, while only 32 Britons were killed.

It is not certain that Kenya's population will gratify the new British gamemasters by slaughtering each other. One voice of reason was heard from the leading Kenya daily, *The Standard*, which on Jan. 3, published an editorial, entitled, "Save our Beloved Country," calling on all sides to "put the General Election behind it and return to normalcy." They propose that, "President Kibaki and Mr Raila Odinga talk to each other; that they agree to take an active part in stopping the violence gripping the country; and that they find a way to share power."

The editorial stated, "The nation has argued at length since last week about who won and who did not win; who stole and who did not steal the vote and whether or not the presidential poll should be repeated or not. We are nowhere near an answer. What appears certain is death and destruction will continue. That is why we need to move ahead with a solution that brings the chaos to an end. . . ."

The *Standard* calls on Kibaki to make a strong public call for "reconciliation and patriotism" in an effort to stop the "death and destruction," and for Raila and the ODM to drop preconditions including "that the President resigns and declares that he did not win the presidential poll." The editors call for an international mediator, "*not* to determine who won the election, but to work out a road map that will bring Kenya back from the brink and a mutually acceptable proposition of sharing power. Then through the parliament the details of power sharing should be worked out."

The editorial notes that the voting, which experienced fraud by both Kibaki's PNU party and Odinga's OMD, nonetheless demonstrated that the country is "split right down the middle." The editorial adds that, "The position of President is not vacant. Kibaki was declared President whether or not the presidential ballot was flawed." After outlining the disasters the country is facing, it calls on both leaders "to demonstrate humility, care for the citizenry, selflessness and an ability and judgment to place the interest of the country above that of respective ambitions or actualisation. . . . Therefore, in order to ensure this demonstrated leadership, the two must show courage to free themselves from any vested interests and handlers acting as political advisers or strategists and appeal to their inner conscience to save this country from plunging further into anarchy. . . . But over and above all this, we believe the President and Raila must act first and fast to save this our beloved country."