

AFRICOM, NATO and the EU

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A US Congressional Research Service report from 2011 states that 'policymakers have noted Africa's growing strategic importance to U.S. interests. Among those interests is the increasing importance of Africa's natural resources, particularly energy resources.' The report adds that the resulting Africa Command has no permanent bases on the Continent, except that Djibouti is 'home to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) at Camp Lemonier, [which] provides the U.S. military's only enduring infrastructure in Africa', notably for drone attacks. The Congressional report further comments that 'Africa's exports of crude oil to the United States are now roughly equal to those of the Middle East, further emphasizing the continent's strategic importance.'¹

Unlike its mega-embassies and military bases in Iraq, Kosovo, and other strategically important locations, the Pentagon has smaller, mobile bases across Africa. The Congressional report tells us that these 'facilities [are known] as "lily pads", or Cooperative Security Locations (CSLs), and [enable] access to locations in Algeria, Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.'² Here we find similarities between the US and UK. During the first Scramble for Africa, Britain largely collaborated with local elites; and, although large numbers of settlers colonised Africa, as long as Britain's elite collaborators followed the wishes of UK foreign policy, they were largely untouched. This system, pioneered in Nigeria, was called 'indirect rule'.

¹ Lauren Ploch, 'Africa Command: U.S. Strategic Interests and the Role of the U.S. Military in Africa', Congressional Research Service, 22 July, 2011, RL34003, Summary page. This is at <www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL34003.pdf>.

² Ploch pp. 9-10.

From the late-19th century until the late-20th, Britain controlled/created a vast number of African countries, near-islands, and regions, including: Botswana/Bechuanaland, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho/Basutoland, Malawi/Nyasaland, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Seychelles, Somalia/Somaliland, St. Helena and Dependencies, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania/Tanganyika, Uganda, West Cameroon, Zambia/Northern Rhodesia, and Zimbabwe/Southern Rhodesia.

The French Empire controlled Algeria, Benin/French West Africa (FWA), Burkina/Upper Volta, the Central African Republic/French Equatorial Africa, Chad, Comoros, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, East Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea/FWA, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger/FWA, Senegal, and Tunisia. Belgium controlled Burundi, Congo/Zaire, and Rwanda. Portugal controlled Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe. Spain controlled Equatorial Guinea, parts of Morocco, and Western Sahara. Fascist Italy controlled Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Libya. Germany controlled Namibia, Togo/Togoland. And the United States controlled Liberia. The Dutch regions of South Africa gradually developed into colonies between the 17th and 20th centuries.

The deep imperial interests, complex trade associations, and huge profits (potential or actual) meant that 'post-colonialism' – a propaganda word for reconstituted colonialism – was never going to run smoothly, particularly in the face of rising Soviet influence in Ethiopia, Somalia, Angola, and elsewhere in the late 20th century. In the 21st century, no nation – not even China – comes close to challenging the United States in power and influence. The US's strength lies in its power to bribe, the breadth of its intelligence agencies, its sophisticated public relations operations, and especially its military might. Consequently, it is the ambition of US businesses, using the military as a vehicle, to dominate Africa.

AFRICOM

The Pentagon's Africa Command (AFRICOM) describes itself as

'A full-spectrum combatant command.....responsible for all U.S. Department of Defense operations, exercises, and security cooperation on the African continent, its island nations, and surrounding waters.' AFRICOM was founded during the presidency of George W. Bush on 1 October 2007; and, exactly one year later, 'officially became an independent command'.³ AFRICOM is an extension of the Central and Southern Commands (CENTCOM and SOUTHCOM), which have spent decades bringing ruin to the Middle East and South America, respectively.

Incorporating the Army, Navy, Air Force, and State Department, AFRICOM's headquarters are in Stuttgart, Germany. Other staff 'are assigned to AFRICOM units at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and RAF Molesworth, England'. The Command's mission statement goes on to explain that these various branches of *imperia* 'are coordinated through Offices of Security Cooperation and Defense Attaché Offices in approximately 38 nations'. The Command concludes that its 'liaison officers [work] at key African posts, including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African Statesand the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre in Ghana.'⁴

In the pre-'postcolonial' period following WWII, as the British Empire transitioned to the American Empire, British and American military-intelligence-business planners detailed their interests on the Continent. Britain took 'measure to assure to ourselves exclusive supplies and control of [Africa's] raw materials' (Foreign Office). The UK Ambassador to Paris spoke of the Foreign Office's desire to form 'an African Union under European auspices'. The principal reason was that Africa was considered 'a valuable source of manpower and raw materials'; and thus 'it would be necessary to mobilise the resources of Africa in support of [the Western] European Union', said Britain's then Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin. Chancellors placed 'prime importance' on 'the development of

³ Africa Command, 'About the Command', website, no date, <<http://www.africom.mil/about-the-command>>

⁴ 'About the Comand'

our African resources'.⁵

Notice that the resources are 'ours'. It is merely a geographical accident that they are located in other people's countries.

Despite the US State Department's acknowledgement in 1950 that 'Communism has made no real progress in the area', it also noted that ' "Black" Africa is an important source of raw materials', and includes potentially huge deposits of 'Manganese, cobalt, columbite, industrial diamonds, chrome ore, uranium, rubber, palm oil, asbestos, graphite, vanadium, mica, copper, tin and many other materials'.⁶ Out to the year 2036, to quote the UK Ministry of Defence, 'a small number of minerals such as tantalum used in portable electronic devices, or cobalt found only in restricted geographic locations, *will* continue to fill niche requirements in manufacturing, and *will* therefore be of disproportionate significance.' 'The need to guarantee supply for economic prosperity *may* lead to upward pressure on prices and a scramble for resources in mineral rich regions such as Africa.' (emphases in original)⁷

The above post-WWII plans coincided with an expanded mission for NATO. In 1949, the UK Foreign Office stated that NATO 'should not necessarily be devoted exclusively to military purposes', and said in 1950 that 'no useful opportunity should be missed for building up [NATO's] non-military side'.⁸ Today, 'NATO looks to protect critical energy infrastructures, transit areas and lines, while cooperating with partners and other organisations involved with energy security', to quote the Organisation's website. 'NATO leaders recognize that the disruption of the flow of vital resources could affect Alliance

⁵ Quotations in this paragraph in Mark Curtis, *The Ambiguities of Power*, (London: Zed, 1994), pp. 14-19.

⁶ State Department quoted in Curtis (see note 5) pp. 32 and 19

⁷ Ministry of Defence (UK), 'Strategic Trends Programme: 2007-2036' (3rd ed.), 23 January, 2007, Swindon: The Developments, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, p. 25. Available at <<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/DCDC/TheDcdcGlobalStrategicTrendsProgramme20072036.htm>>

⁸ Foreign Office quoted in Curtis (see note 5) p. 41.

security interests.⁹

To the general public, NATO is promoted as a humanitarian intervener. As the UK MoD has said, the public only tolerates war when it perceives 'moral legitimacy'. Libya has the largest known oil reserves in Africa. Nigeria has the second largest known reserves.

During the 2011 Parliamentary debate about whether or not to bomb Libya – which, in keeping with the Western concept of democracy, happened two days after the bombing had started – the leader of the Labour Party, Ed Miliband (former Energy Secretary), informed Parliament:

'We do not seek commercial gain or geopolitical advantage, and we are not intending to occupy Libya or seize her natural resources.'

Two years earlier, his brother David, then Foreign Secretary, told Parliament rather differently:

'With the largest proven oil reserves in Africa and extensive gas reserves, Libya is potentially a major energy source for the future. We work hard to support British business in Libya, as we do worldwide'.

As NATO bombs fell on Libyan children, Britain's Prime Minister, David Cameron, said:

'Libya is.....one of the richest [countries] in Africa. Its proven oil reserves are the ninth largest in the world and in relation to their GDP, bigger than Saudi Arabia'.¹⁰

The British House of Commons Library report, *Energy Security*, which mentions the 'new scramble for Africa', states: 'African oil 2005: Proven reserves: 114 billion barrels; 9.5% of world total – concentrated in Libya, Nigeria and Algeria'. Think about what that means: nearly 10% of available resources are located in just three countries. The report further notes that 'Although Malaysian, Indian and Russian oil and gas companies are involved in this new "scramble for Africa", China

⁹ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 'NATO's role in energy security', no date, at <http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-15CDB895-2387E351/natolive/topics_49208.htm?selectedLocale=en>.

¹⁰ For extensive quotes and sources, see my Libya series (Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4) at <<http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/coles.shtml>>.

and the US are at the fore in competing for access and control over Africa's resources.¹¹ By 'assisting African states and regional organizations to strengthen their defense capabilities', AFRICOM 'better enables Africans to address their security threats and reduces threats to U.S. interests', the Command explains.¹²

Libya was AFRICOM's first major war.

'On the surface it looked as if the US was largely not engaged in the operation, the reality is quite different. The plan was to pursue a "covert intervention" strategy rather than an overt one.....The US was involved in all planning and deliberations regarding the campaign for the duration of the operation...This reflects a new US approach to international affairs, one that will remain the de facto course under the Obama Administration... [and which] may reflect a wider change due to mounting domestic pressure from the US electorate to save money by cutting back on foreign adventures....The reality is that this war, just like the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo, was largely an American operation.'¹³

UK Armed Forces Minister Nick Harvey wrote that 'The majority of effective strike power has been provided by the [French] aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, the United States Marine Corps Harriers (until withdrawn for political reasons by President Obama)', which, he said, was 'too visible involvement for the American public to stomach[,] ... and, quietly and with no fanfare, by United States naval and air force aircraft (3,475 sorties – approximately 1/3rd of the

11 Ruth Winstone, Paul Bolton and Donna Gore, 'Energy Security', 07/42, 9 May, 2007, House of Commons Library, London, pp. 22-3 at <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/RP07-42/energy-security>>.

12 Africa Command, see note 3.

13 Professor M.J. Williams, written evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee on Operation Ellamy, Britain's part of NATO's Unified Protector at <<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmdfence/950/950vw.pdf>>.

total).'¹⁴

The human toll has been appalling: 50,000 Libyans perished from March 2011 to March 2012, according to the Western-installed puppet regime. They join the thousand or so who died trying to cross the sea to Europe, as NATO craft flew overhead.¹⁵ Many cities, including Sirte, are ruins; others, including Tawergha, were literally cleansed of their Black populations by the UK-armed and trained rebels (whom MI6 were training as early as October 2010 to overthrow Gaddafi); and key infrastructure, including water pipeline factories, were bombed.

On 15 April 2013, via the North Africa Regional Engagement Team, 'Leaders from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and U.S. 6th Fleet and the Libyan navy and coast guard, met to discuss maritime security in Naples, Italy', AFRICOM reported. 'During the visit, the Libyans and U.S. personnel exchanged information on maritime domain awareness (MDA), discussed strategies and cooperation between the two navies, and toured the 6th Fleet Maritime Operations Center.'¹⁶

In other words, a new generation of Libyans are being trained to turn the country into a US-EU client.

In order to understand what is going on in North Africa and part of the Middle East, it is necessary to explore the documented military-business interest in the world's most vital shipping areas. Oil, gas, and other goods are no good without the means to deliver them to markets.

Energy and the Mediterranean axis

Energy Security noted that nearly 10% of the world's oil reserves are located in just three countries: two of which,

¹⁴ Letter from Nick Harvey MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces to Sarah Wollaston MP at <<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmdfence/writev/950/lib09.htm>>.

¹⁵ On the NATO record and the media cover-up, see my series on Libya at <<http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/coles.shtml>>.

¹⁶ Africa Command, 'Libyan Military Leaders Visit Naples to Discuss Maritime Security', no date, at <<http://www.africom.mil/Newsroom/Article/10657/libyan-military-leaders-visit-naples-to-discuss-maritime-security>>.

Libya and Algeria, are in North Africa. Even more important, ships bringing goods to America and Europe from the East, including oil and liquefied natural gas, pass through several points: the Gulf of Aden (Yemen and Somalia), the Red Sea (Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, Egypt), the Suez Canal (Egypt), and across the Mediterranean (Israel, Palestine (Gaza), Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco). In addition, a network of pipelines links North Africa with Europe. Many US companies operate in North Africa, and thus have a vested interest in securing the region from Nasserite socialists who would otherwise seek to nationalise resources. In the scholarly and strategic literature, Nasserite threats are called 'resource nationalism' – that wacky idea that people have the right to develop their own resources. In order to counter 'resource nationalism', pretexts, such as counterterrorism, are necessary.¹⁷

For instance, in 2010 Chatham House hosted a project that laid the basis for the UK's *National Security Strategy* and *Strategic Defence and Security Review* (both 2010). Sponsored by BAE Systems, Barclays Capital, and BP (weapons, money, and oil), the document affirmed that 'Influence starts with building *shared awareness* with other policy actors: developing the data, analysis, ideas and proposals capable of underpinning a new consensus, whether on financial institutions, resource scarcity or fragile states.' (emphasis in original) The authors conclude that 'Voters [in the UK] will not actively call for a more effective foreign policy'; therefore, 'The government should define its international mission as managing global risks on behalf of British citizens' – hence the appearance of 'al-Qaeda' bogeymen.¹⁸

A year before 9/11, the Project for the New American Century, whose members included some of the future George W. Bush administration, stated that their goal was 'to shape a

¹⁷ See, for instance, J. Stern, 'The New Security Environment for European Gas: Worsening Geopolitics and Increasing Global Competition for LNG', at <<http://www.ogel.org/article.asp?key=2684>>.

¹⁸ Alex Evans and David Steven, 'Organizing for Influence: UK Foreign Policy in an Age of Uncertainty', June 2010, Chatham House, London, pp. vii, vi. at <<http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/109350>>.

new century favorable to American principles and interests'. However, the document continues, 'the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor'. After the 'catastrophic and catalyzing event' of 9/11, Britain and America's old *mujahideen* allies (now re-branded 'al-Qaeda') served to justify Full Spectrum Dominance.¹⁹

In 2004, the Pentagon's Defense Science Board admitted that 'war on terror' is a hoax:

'In stark contrast to the Cold War, the United States today is not seeking to contain a threatening state/empire, but rather seeking to convert a broad movement within Islamic civilization to accept the value structure of Western Modernity — an agenda hidden within the official rubric of a "War on Terrorism."²⁰

Indeed, British, French, and American special forces are working with those they call 'al-Qaeda' in Libya and, secretly, in Syria.

It was widely reported in the mainstream media in 2002, and conveniently forgotten, that the Pentagon's Proactive, Pre-emptive Operations Group (P2OG) would purposefully *provoke* acts of terrorism.²¹ In *Secret Affairs*, former Chatham House Fellow Mark Curtis documents some of Britain's long-time complicity – from funding, arming, training, and directing, to protecting from extradition – with terrorists and terror suspects.

19 Thomas Donnelly, 'Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century', The Project for a New American Century, September, 2000, Washington, DC: PNAC, pp. Introduction, 51, <<http://www.newamericancentury.org/RebuildingAmericasDefenses.pdf>>.

20 William Schneider, 'Report of the Defense Science Board Task Force on Strategic Communication', Defense Science Board, September, 2004, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense For Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Washington, D.C., 20301-3140, p. 36 at <<http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/dod/dsb/commun.pdf>>.

21 David Isenberg, "P2OG' allows Pentagon to fight dirty', *Asia Times*, 5 November, 2002, <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/DK05Ak02.html>.

In light of the above, it is clear that mounting drone operations conducted by the US in Somalia and Sudan (Gulf of Aden) and Libya and Algeria (Med), from bases in Djibouti and a link-up to bases in the UK, are really designed to surveil and 'protect' shipping, transport, and existing and planned pipelines. Out to 2036, the UK MoD predicts 'political and even military interventions in order to protect access and safeguard supply..... Any major constraints on, or threats to, the free market in energy could arrest or limit the globalization dynamic.'²²

Full Spectrum Dominance, to quote the US Air Force, will enable the US 'to find, fix, track, target, and engage any moving ground target anywhere on the surface of the Earth'. The Project for the New American Century document, which not only predated 9/11 but hoped for a 'catalyzing event', notes that 'unmanned aerial vehicles promise to extend strike power.....[L]ong-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will make it much easier to *project military power around the globe.*' The document enthuses that 'UAVs will allow not only for long-range power projection but for *sustained power projection.*'²³ (emphases added)

BAE's High-Endurance Rapid Technology Integration drone includes the following capabilities: 'Reconnaissance • Wide area surveillance • Border patrol • *Maritime surveillance and protection* • Infantry/front line support • Battle Damage assessment • *Pipeline surveillance* • High value asset protection • Law enforcement • Environmental monitoring • Disaster assessment • Communications relay • Mapping', to quote its news release. (emphases added)²⁴

Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, informed Congress in 2012:

'Africa is adjacent to several key strategic crossroads -

²² The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, 'Strategic Trends Programme: Global Strategic Trends – Out to 2040' (4th edition), Ministry of Defence (UK), 9 February 2010, <www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/38651ACB-D9A9-4494-98AA-1C86433BB673/0/gst4_update9_Feb10.pdf> p. 26.

²³ Donnelly (see note 19) pp. 59-60.

²⁴ For details on drones, see my 'The World of Drones', *Z Magazine*, November-December, 2011.

Bab El Mandeb on the southern end of the Red Sea, the Suez Canal at its northern end, and the Strait of Gibraltar at the western edge of the Mediterranean. Events at each of these crossroads can significantly impact the global economy and regional security. Supported by our air and port facilities in Djibouti (Camp Lemonier), our ships form the backbone of multinational forces from more than 20 nations that combat pirates and terrorists around East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.²⁵

The US Navy required more money for 'improving the capability of today's platforms through new payloads of weapons, sensors and unmanned vehicles..... We continue our commitment to our NATO allies in the Mediterranean and other waters around Europe', he said. During World War II, the US Navy 'established dominance in the air, sea and undersea domains, going forward around the world to protect sea lanes and project power to Europe and Africa, and take the fight across the Pacific to Asia.' The goal today, he concluded, is 'to remain present or have access to the world's strategic maritime crossroads – areas where shipping lanes, energy resources, information networks and security interests intersect.'²⁶

Former AFRICOM Commander, General Carter Ham, emphasised 'maintaining global access, which is important..... for our own economic growth'. In 2004, NATO reported working with Islamists in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia, in order to secure the Middle Eastern and North African energy pipelines which provide European countries with gas and oil. This marked 'a shift in Alliance priorities towards greater involvement in these strategically

²⁵ 'Statement of Admiral Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, before the Congress on FY 2013 Department of Navy Posture', March, 2012, pp. 4, 10, 2, at <www.navy.mil/cno/120316_PS.pdf>.

²⁶ Greenert, see note 25.

important regions of the world'.²⁷

The NATO news release added that '65 per cent of Europe's oil and natural gas imports pass..... through the Mediterranean. A secure and stable environment in the Mediterranean region is important not only to Western importing nations but also to the region's energy producers and to the countries through which oil and gas transit.'²⁸

Somalia

A European Union report on collective 'security' arrangements into the 21st century advocated 'bringing all of the ongoing activities under a common umbrella and proposing additional initiatives to complete the response', echoing the UK's post-WW2 statement quoted above, concerning the need to foster an African Union. 'The strategic framework encompasses the EU's relationship with eight countries in the Horn of Africa', which, as we saw above, is an important shipping route, and 'the areas of development, trade, political dialogue, humanitarian activities, crisis response and management, counter-terrorism, piracy, climate change, migration and regional cooperation'. The eight countries in question are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.²⁹

As we have seen, one of those (Djibouti) is a base for US-UK drone attacks, two others (Sudan and Somalia) are victims of drones, and the rest are 'former' Anglo-French colonies, necessitating close collaboration between the 'former' rulers under the Intergovernmental Authority for Development.

²⁷ Africa Command, 'TRANSCRIPT: General Ham Discusses U.S. AFRICOM objectives and Africa security issues at Brown University', no date, at <<http://www.africom.mil/Newsroom/Transcript/10176/transcript-general-ham-discusses-us-africom-object>>.

²⁸ NATO, 'Security Cooperation with the Mediterranean region and the broader Middle East', Briefing paper, Brussels: NATO, p. 2-3.

²⁹ Linda Barry, 'European Security in the 21st Century: The EU's Comprehensive Approach', IIEA European Security and Defence Series, 2012, Brussels: Institute of International and European Affairs, pp. 8-10. This is available at <<http://www.iiea.com/publications/european-security-in-the-21st-century-the-eus-comprehensive-approach>>.

The report notes Operation Atalanta, a UK-led counter-piracy operation off the coast of Somalia. Why does Somalia have a piracy crisis? In 2008, Britain's specialist Roger Middleton told Chatham House that 'The only period during which piracy virtually vanished around Somalia was during the six months of rule by the Islamic Courts Union in the second half of 2006. This indicates that a functioning government in Somalia is capable of controlling piracy.' Britain's funded, armed, trained, and directed proxy force, the Transitional Federal Government, invaded Somalia from Ethiopia in December 2006, and spent the next three years committing grave war crimes, pushing 4 million to the edge of starvation (documented by journalist Aidan Hartley and others), and dissolving the Islamic Courts Union.³⁰

Despite the group's name, a US Congress report admitted that 'an assessment of the Islamic Courts by U.S. officials was that less than 5 percent of the Islamic Courts leadership can be considered extremist, according to a senior State Department official.'³¹ An Amnesty International report commented on the period, noting 'functioning schools in cities, supported by civil society, diaspora groups and business actors and there was some scope to negotiate one's way through the dangers posed by warlords and clan militias'. The socialist government did not, however, have Britain and America's energy interests at heart, and thus had to be overthrown.

Referring to the European fishing vessels that are robbing the Indian Ocean and coasts of the Horn of Africa, Britain's former Defence Minister, Bob Ainsworth (who supported the invasion of Iraq, expanded the occupation of Afghanistan, and voted for the destruction of Libya), acknowledged on behalf of Somalis during a committee hearing, 'a moral argument that "You took our fish and therefore this [piracy] is what we are doing."' Likewise,

³⁰ For quotes and extensive background and sources, see my articles on Somalia at <<http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/coles.shtml>> for example <http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/Article_64101.shtml>.

³¹ Quoted in a Congressional report at <www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA501208>.

Chatham House specialist, Sally Healy, said that 'the kind of issues that matter [to Somalis] would include some sort of recognition that there has been a plunder of Somali resources' by the EU.³² Since pirate activities began, she added, 'there is a visible difference to the amount of fish that have recovered in the ocean'. A free media might publish headlines such as: 'Somali pirates improve depleting fish-stocks plundered by EU'; or, perhaps, 'European Union pirates steal fish from starving Somalis'.

Dr. Lee Willett, a specialist of maritime studies at the Royal United Services Institute, was asked during a House of Lords hearing in 2010 whether the over-fishing of Somali waters by the European Union — which is heading Operation Atalanta from UK bases in Northwood — was a serious issue for Somalis. 'Very much so', he replied, adding that many said 'because Western ships were coming illegally into their waters and taking their fish, they had no other choice.' The same issue arose over the EU's dumping of foetal-deforming, cancer-causing toxic waste on Somalia's shores, recalling the statement of then World Bank chief, Lawrence Summers (one of Obama's economic advisors partly responsible for the financial collapse), that 'the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that.'³³

No thoughts are given during the anti-piracy operations to rescuing the 'boat people' fleeing Ethiopia and Somalia in rickety dinghies, hundreds of miles across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen by the tens of thousands each year to escape the Transitional Federal Government's war crimes.

In January 2012, Brunel University's Dr. Anja Shortland published a Chatham House study, using 'satellite technology' (which is part of the apparatus of Full Spectrum Dominance) to determine where the pirates' money goes. Dr. Shortland

³² Healey speaking to the Foreign Affairs Committee, available at <<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmcaff/1318/11062903.htm>>.

³³ The memo is quoted and discussed at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summers_memo>. It is referred to in William Blum, *Rogue State* (Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press, 2000) p. 6

'conclud[ed] that there is significant evidence of shared, if unequal, economic benefits across different sections of local society.'³⁴ Shortland wrote: 'conspicuous consumption appears to be limited by social norms dictating resource sharing. Around a third of pirate ransoms are converted into Somali shillings, benefiting casual labour and pastoralists in Puntland', a region once run by Abdullahi Yusuf. One-time leader of the TFG, Yusuf was given a liver transplant on the NHS. ('They gave me the liver of an IRA terrorist. Now I'm a real killer', he said.) His goons were and continue to be paid by British taxpayers through the Department of International Development, which funnels money to the TFG via the World Food Programme, as parliamentary documents admit.³⁵

'Pirates probably make a significant contribution to economic development in the provincial capitals Garowe and Bosasso', Shortland concluded. 'A military crack-down on [pirates] would deprive one of the world's poorest nations of an important source of income and aggravate poverty.'³⁶

Referring to the counter-piracy and top-down training of African forces as 'two of the early test beds' for an expansive policy, the EU security report concludes: 'The Horn of Africa case study demonstrates that where the EU decides to act, it does have an operational capacity which can be effective in working towards its foreign and security policy goals around the world.' With the region militarised, counterterrorism – read resource and transit route militarization – efforts spread further North to the Mediterranean.³⁷

Algeria and Mali

In 2007, a UK Ministry of Defence projection co-sponsored by the Eurasia Group stated that, in the future, 'risks associated

³⁴ Shortland quoted in John Lunn, 'Does Somali piracy have any 'developmental effects'?', available at <<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/11459712/does-somali-piracy-have-any-developmental-effects-parliament>>.

³⁵ Shortland quoted in *ibid*. For Yusuf quote, details on WFP money transfers, and general info, see my Somalia series at <<http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/coles.shtml>>.

³⁶ Shortland, see note 34.

³⁷ Barry, see note 29.

with....ungoverned and poorly governed spaces, includ[e] endemic criminal activity, the basing of terrorists, irregular activity and conflict.’ Within three years, a Center for Strategic and International Studies paper, also sponsored by the Eurasia Group, stated that ‘Al-Qaeda’ in the Islamic Maghreb (‘AQIM’) ‘operates, recruits, and plans in ungoverned spaces, launches attacks against both civilians and military targets, and kidnaps Westerners’. Either the UK MoD’s powers of psychic prediction are phenomenal, or this is a charade designed to justify Full Spectrum Dominance in Africa. There is plenty of evidence to support the latter hypothesis, to which we turn.³⁸

An attack by ‘AQIM’, led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, occurred at a BP installation at Amenas, Algeria, in early 2013.

According to Britain’s late Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, ‘Al-Qaeda’ simply means the CIA’s ‘computer file or database’ of *mujahideen* proxy fighters funded, armed, and trained by America’s Green Berets, Navy SEALs and CIA, and Britain’s MI6 and SAS from 1979 to 1989, in an effort to ‘draw the Russians into the Afghan trap’ and destroy the Soviet Union, to quote Jimmy Carter’s National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski.³⁹

In 1994, one of the fighters, Osama bin Laden, visited London where he established a front bank and propaganda organisation, called the Advice and Reformation Committee (ARC). ARC’s manager was Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ), whose name crops up again in relation to ‘AQIM’. Abu Qatada was a recruiter for both the EIJ and the Algerian Islamic Group (GIA), and editor of the GIA’s newsletter. MI5 agent Reda Hassaine said: ‘I saw Qatada brainwash young Muslims, living in Britain from Africa, Somalia,

³⁸ MoD, see note 22, p. 16. Center for Strategic and International Studies, Middle East Program, ‘The Dynamics of North African Terrorism’, March, 2010, p. 3, at <http://csis.org/files/attachments/100216_NorthAfricaConferenceReport.pdf>.

³⁹ Robin Cook, ‘The struggle against terrorism cannot be won by military means’, *The Guardian*, 8 July, 2005, <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2005/jul/08/july7.development>>. Brzezinski quoted in John K. Cooley, *Unholy Wars*, (London: Pluto Press, 2002) pp. 10-11.

Sudan, Morocco and my own country of Algeria'.⁴⁰ *Time* revealed in 2002 that 'senior European intelligence officials tell TIME that Abu Qatada is tucked away in a safe house in the north of England, where he and his family are being lodged, fed and clothed by British intelligence services' – hence his slow extradition.⁴¹

Qatada's colleague was Abu Hamza, who trained proxies at London's Finsbury Park Mosque. Hamza fought alongside the SAS in Bosnia in 1992. 'Evidence collected by the American agencies shows that, as early as 1997, Hamza was organising terror camps in the Brecon Beacons, at an old monastery in Tunbridge Wells, Kent [England], and in Scotland', *The Guardian* reported. Former British soldiers 'were recruited to train about 10 of Hamza's followers at the Brecon Beacons ... [teaching] them to strip and clean weapons and gave them endurance training and lessons in surveillance techniques' — all of which is conveniently forgotten.⁴²

The governments of France, Yemen, and Egypt sought his extradition on charges of recruiting for the GIA, kidnapping, and links to terrorism, respectively. The Blair Government protected Hamza. Another protected asset was Rachid Ramda, head of the London branch of the GIA. He was wanted by the French in connection with terrorism, including the Paris Metro bombing in 1995. In 2002, the British High Court rejected France's extradition requests. Also in the mid-1990s, MI6 wired £100,000 to the bin Laden-linked Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) in an effort to assassinate Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi. Like al-Zawahiri, the LIFG crop up again in connection with 'AQIM'. All of this is documented in occasional press articles and in former Chatham House Fellow Mark Curtis's book, *Secret Affairs*.⁴³

The main London-based LIFG member was Ansar al-Liby.

40 Sue Reid, 'The brave agent who exposed Hamza only to be betrayed by MI5', *Daily Mail*, 10 April 2012.

41 Bruce Crumley, 'Sheltering a Puppet Master?', *Time*, 7 July, 2002 <<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,300609,00.html>>.

42 Jamie Doward and Diane Taylor, 'Hamza set up terror camps with British ex-soldiers', *The Guardian*, 12 February, 2006, <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2006/feb/12/terrorism.world>>.

43 Mark Curtis, *Secret Affairs* (London: Serpent's Tale, London, 2010).

In 1998, al-Zawahiri's EIJ instigated the bombing of two US Embassies in Africa: one in Nairobi (Kenya) and the other in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Earlier that year, MI6 officer George Temple and his wife Anthea were stationed in Nairobi and, Anthea claims, knew of an impending attack. MI6 'had under close surveillance bin Laden'sfrontman in London, Khalid Al-Fawwaz, who had bought him [bin Laden] a satellite phone'. Al-Fawwaz was the London manager of bin Laden's ARC company. By 1998, the intelligence agencies claim, Bin Laden had made over 200 calls to London.⁴⁴

The US sought the extradition of al-Liby and al-Fawwaz, as well as Abdel Bary and Ibrahim Eidarous on terrorism charges: at least three were in connection with the Embassy bombings. The Blair Government protected them all – the previous John Major Government granted al-Liby asylum in 1995. In that year, al-Liby's LIFG joined forces with the Qatada-Hamza-linked GIA. The story given to the authorised media by the vested intelligence agencies is that Mokhtar Belmokhtar was the new bin Laden, nicknamed 'the uncatchable' by French intelligence (Algeria being a 'former' French colony). 'Belmokhtar is a former Algerian soldier with experience in training camps in Afghanistan', the UN revealed.⁴⁵

He 'travelled to Afghanistan at the age of 19 where he underwent training', writes specialist, Andrew Black. There he 'made connections with jihadis from around the world, including luminaries such as Abu Qatada'. He then 'established the first cell of the Shahada Katibat [Martyrs' Battalion] in Ghardaïa, which would later..... become integrated into the GIA', the group linked with Qatada, Hamza, and Ramda, all of whom were protected by the British Government. It is reported that Belmokhtar joined a GIA splinter group, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). 'On

44 Anthea Temple, 'The spy who loved me', *The Guardian*, 2 October, 2002, <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2002/oct/02/freedomofinformation.uk>>.

45 Curtis, see note 43. United Nations Security Council Committee, 'Pursuant to resolutions, 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities', <<http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/NSQI13603E.shtml>>.

September 11, 2006..... Ayman al-Zawahiri issued a statement announcing the merger of his group and the GSPC' – recall that al-Zawahiri's London-based agent al-Fawwaz was protected by the British Government. The 'AQIM' coalition also includes the MI6-funded and trained Libyan Islamic Fighting Group.⁴⁶

The reason for protecting these people is obvious: as many have pointed out, the 'War on Terror' has replaced the 'Red Menace' as the new pretext – along with 'humanitarian intervention' – to justify invading countries. As long as Algeria has 'a terrorist threat', its military can receive massive arms and training from the US and EU, and thus protect oil installations from Islamic or secular nationalism.⁴⁷

Mali's ethnic Tuareg faction, which overthrew the government in 2012, called for 'an independent state while Ansar Dine, [a group] under notorious Commander Iyad Ag Ghaly, want[ed] to impose Islamic law', *The Telegraph* claims. The latter 'linked up with al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb'. Mali officials claimed that Belmokhtar 'is looking to procure weapons in Libya.....[H]e has been in Libya for several weeks', the Israeli Defence Monitor reported in early 2012. As this author has documented elsewhere, there are close MI6 links to Islamic extremists in Libya, whom MI6 trained in opposition Gaddafi's Islamic socialism.⁴⁸

'Relations between the EU and Algeria have always been

46 Andrew Black, 'The Reconstituted Al-Qaeda Threat in the Maghreb', *Terrorism Monitor*, Volume 5, Issue 2, 21 February, 2007, <http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=1006&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=182&no_cache=1> and Andrew Black, 'Mokhtar Belmokhtar: The Algerian Jihad's Southern Amir', *Terrorism Monitor*, Volume 7, Issue 12, 8 May, 2009, <http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=34964>.

47 William Engdahl's *A Century of War* (Pluto Press) and Robert Dreyfuss's *Devil's Game* (Owl Books) give more details on the broader oil-terror axis.

48 *Daily Telegraph*, 'Mali junta facing increased pressure to relinquish power', 4 April, 2012, at <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/mali/9184774/Mali-junta-facing-increased-pressure-to-relinquish-power.html>>; *Israel Defence Monitor*, 'Mali Security Sources: "Mokhtar Belmokhtar is procuring arms in Libya"', at <<http://www.israeldefense.com/?CategoryID=484&ArticleID=1019>>

dominated by the bilateral ties that Algeria has with a cluster of member states, most notably France, based on strong energy and security, and historical links', notes Susie Dennison of the European Council on Foreign Relations.⁴⁹ In 2012, the EU 'offered Algeria support for growth and enterprise in exchange for the promise of political reform', she continues..... 'However, the violent Islamist takeover in northern Mali' – which borders Algeria – 'turned the EU into the *demandeur* in the relationship and could put the progress made [in 2012] in jeopardy'. The reason for the 'jeopardy' is that the US and France 'firmly back[ed the] UN-mandated African intervention in Mali. But Algeria, which is viewed as a crucial partner, is reluctant to support intervention because it fears that this could increase instability in its immediate neighbourhood'. Dennison goes on to describe the European Union's 'purely transactional relationship that had developed between Algeria and member states – most notably France, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, as clients of its energy resources'.⁵⁰

Neighbouring Mali has vast, untapped oil reserves. After achieving 'independence' from France in 1959, Malians endured the socialist dictatorship of Modibo Kéïta, until his ousting in 1968 by Moussa Traoré. Traoré was overthrown in 1991 by Amadou Toumani Touré. Touré was defeated in elections by the populist Alpha Oumar Konaré, who resigned in 2002, allowing Touré to regain power. Around this time, the US began training the Mali military, in what would become an annual exercise, Flintlock, which continued under the command of AFRICOM. In *Foreign Policy*, Mali specialist William G. Moseley notes that, using aid as a weapon, the US began militarizing aspects of Mali's otherwise failed infrastructure.⁵¹

'[US] military personnel repair schools, wells, health

49 An elite think-tank consisting of former NATO Secretary-generals, members of all three major UK political parties, and scholars.

50 Susi Dennison, 'The EU, Algeria and the Northern Mali Question', European Council on Foreign Relations, at <http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/the_eu_algeria_and_the_northern_mali_question>

51 William G. Moseley, 'Stop the Blanket Militarization of Humanitarian Aid', *Foreign Policy*, 31 July, 2009, at <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/31/stop_the_blanket_militarization_of_humanitarian_aid>.

centers, roads, and bridges. Army doctors provide basic treatment and vaccinations’.

In 2008, Moseley continues,

‘the Defense Department gave the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Mali \$9.5 million to run a counterterrorism program, with close coordination between the two’.

This was in the face of an alleged, creeping ‘al-Qaeda’ presence.

‘The program provides curriculum advice to Koranic schools and job training for young men (who are seen as highly susceptible to Islamist rhetoric). USAID has also built 14 community radio stations that broadcast programming on peace and tolerance.’

Moseley cautioned:

‘Maliens may resent it reflexively: The United States has a checkered history and a terrible reputation for its involvement in other African states.’

Moseley concluded:

‘When the military becomes involved in development work, the local population comes to see these efforts as part of a larger military campaign. And that’s a dangerous precedent to set.’

As we shall see, that is the purpose of the military in the New World Order.

In October 2011, ethnic Tuaregs returned from fighting in Libya and formed the secular National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). The Islamist Tuareg group, Ansar-e-Dine (Defenders of the Faith) saw the MNLA as a threat and appear to have tried to usurp it by temporarily forming an alliance. A month later, five Europeans were kidnapped, allegedly by ‘AQIM’, linking Algeria, ‘al-Qaeda’, and Mali in the minds of the Western publics. In January 2012, Malian troops were massacred by a group alleged to be linked to ‘AQIM’. A month later, the Pentagon cancelled Flintlock. In March, junior officers in the Mali Army mutinied, leading to a

coup led by Captain Amadou Sanogo.⁵²

After a talk at Brown University, an African speaker asked AFRICOM Commander General Ham:

'The United States Africa Command was engaged with the military in Mali that carried out a coup d'état. [Therefore,] wouldn't you have thought that we need a thorough evaluation of the U.S. Africa Command?'

This, of course, implies US involvement in the coup.⁵³

At this point, Ansar-e-Dine and the MNLA appear to have seized upon the power vacuum to declare an independent State, Azawad, in the North. In April, the junta agreed to cede power to Dioncounda Traore. As interim President, Traore was beaten up by factions loyal to the previous President, after which he sought refuge in France. In June, an alleged 'AQIM' splinter group ousted the secular MNLA from its key strongholds in Gao. In September, the Government formally called for international support, as the 'AQIM' splinter group moved south. In December, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2085.⁵⁴

UNSCR 2085 did *not* authorise the use of force by international actors, but, rather, authorised the formation of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali to restore order under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Despite this, France decided that the Resolution permitted it to drop bombs on Mali civilians. In January 2013, the United States, through France, began bombing rebel positions in Mali. As we saw above with the Libya example, the US was instrumental behind the scenes, giving the world the impression that Mali's

52 Alexis Arieff, 'Crisis in Mali', Congressional Research Service, 14 January, 2013, R42664, Washington, DC, at <<http://www.cfr.org/mali/congressional-research-service-crisis-mali/p28868>>.

53 Africa Command, 'TRANSCRIPT: General Ham Discusses U.S. AFRICOM objectives and Africa security issues at Brown University', 19 December, 2012, at <<http://www.africom.mil/Newsroom/Transcript/10176/transcript-general-ham-discusses-us-africom-object>>.

54 Arieff, see note 52, p. 4.

was a French war.⁵⁵

The war was as much a US-UK operation as a French one, illustrating further tripartite collaboration on the issue of African energy security the first in recent times being Libya. In January 2013, the UK MoD 'confirmed that two RAF C17 transport aircraft would provide logistical assistance to Mali, at the request of the French Government. Those aircraft are assisting in the deployment of French personnel and equipment to the country'. What the news media didn't report, and the House of Commons did, was that 'A small detachment of technical personnel has also been deployed to Bamako airport to assist with the reception of UK aircraft'. Logistical support included the use of a Sentinel surveillance craft to help France bomb 'terrorists'. 'British forces will subsequently consist of an infantry training team and a mortar and artillery training team, in addition to a small FCO contingent responsible for human rights and gender awareness training'.⁵⁶ However, Britain's historical 'human rights training' in Somalia, Colombia, Bangladesh, and elsewhere strongly suggests that such statements are PR (recall the MoD's admission that the public has to have 'perceptions of moral legitimacy').

The assault on Mali marked the fourth act of aggression – the supreme international crime – committed by Britain's Tory-Liberal government. The first was the assault on Libya in 2011; the second was the covert deployment of forces in Syria in 2011; the third was the semi-secret deployment of SAS troops in Somalia in 2012. In Bamako, 20 UK military personnel supported 'air transport liaison with French forces'. In Dakar, Senegal, 70 supported 'ground crew and technical support staff for the Sentinel aircraft'. Advisers were deployed to 'Anglophone West African countries contributing to AFISMA in

55 'News reports in 2012 claimed that the Obama Administration was contemplating unilateral strikes in northern Mali.' Claire Mills, Arabella Lang and Jon Lunn, 'The crisis in Mali: current military action and upholding humanitarian law', House of Commons Library Note SN06531, 11 March 2013 at <www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN06531/the-crisis-in-mali-current-military-action-and-upholding-humanitarian-law>.

56 Mills, Lang and Lunn, see note 55.

order to assess their needs and to gain situational awareness'. Only the latter may have been a legal operation in accordance with UNSCR 2085. 40 UK personnel were deployed for the EU Training Mission, including 21 troops from the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment to carry out infantry training and 12 personnel for mortar and artillery training.⁵⁷

In March, '6,300 African soldiers from Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo, Senegal, Benin and Chad [were] deployed as part of AFISMA'. Notice that many are 'former' French colonies, adding weight to the above argument — that 'postcolonialism' was never going to run smoothly, given the business-military connections that 'former' occupiers retain. 'The US State Department has also confirmed that 100 military trainers, provided by private security firms under the Department's Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Program, [were] deployed to assist those African countries which are contributing personnel to AFISMA', reported a British House of Commons Library Research Note.⁵⁸

If the future of Mali remains uncertain, one certainty is that the Pentagon will not tolerate any threat to securing oil reserves.

Blurring assistance and occupation

In the New World Order, Western militaries are being reconfigured for policing, counter-narcotics operations, antiterrorism, and disaster management and relief. Bush's *Quadrennial Defense Review* (2006) stated that the Pentagon 'will continue to support initiatives, such as the Global Peace Operations Initiative to increase the capacity of international organizations so that they can contribute more effectively to the improvement of governance and the expansion of civil society in the world.' The promotion of 'civil society' means that big business-funded NGOs use 'volunteers' to micromanage people's lives in the absence of social spending, as tax money goes to private insurance policies (like the banker bailouts of

⁵⁷ On the legality of Libya, the secret war in Syria, and the deployment of forces in Somalia, see my Axis of Logic articles at <<http://www.axisoflogic.com/artman/publish/coles.shtml>>

⁵⁸ Mills *et al.*, see note 55.

2008-10) and hi-tech research and development. 'In this regard', the QDR 2006 concludes, 'the Department supports the African Union's development of a humanitarian crisis intervention capability, which is a good example of an international organization stepping up to the challenge of regional stabilization missions.'⁵⁹

Obama greatly expanded the mission. '[E]xtreme weather events may lead to increased demands for defense support to civil authorities for humanitarian assistance or disaster response both within the United States and overseas', QDR 2010 confirms. 'In some nations, the military is the only institution with the capacity to respond to a large-scale natural disaster' – meaning that the militaries have unique opportunities for social control. 'Proactive engagement with these countries can help build their capability to respond to such events', the report continues. 'Working closely with relevant U.S. departments and agencies, DoD has undertaken environmental security cooperative initiatives with foreign militaries that represent a non-threatening way of building trust, sharing best practices on installations management and operations, and developing response capacity.'⁶⁰

In 2005, the United States Agency for International Development and the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance created the Office of Military Affairs 'to coordinate agency policy with [the Department of Defense] and the State Department for humanitarian relief and post conflict reconstruction efforts', Congress informs us. 'Like the State Department, USAID places OFDA [Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance] military liaison officers with combatant commands that routinely provide humanitarian and disaster relief coordination.'⁶¹ The Congressional report further notes that in 2007 an organisation called US Naval Forces Europe launched the African Partnership Station, under which the USS

⁵⁹ Department of Defense (US), 2006, 'The Quadrennial Defense Review Report', Washington, DC: Gov. Printing Office, at <<http://www.whs.mil/library/quadrennialdefensereview.htm>>.

⁶⁰ Department of Defense (US), 2010, The Quadrennial Defense Review Report, Washington, DC: Gov. Printing Office at <<http://www.defense.gov/qdr/>>.

⁶¹ Ploch (see note 1) pp. 6-7

Fort McHenry was deployed to the Gulf of Guinea to serve as a 'floating schoolhouse', from which assistance and training neighbouring nations was provided. 'Training focused on maritime domain awareness and law enforcement, port facilities management and security, seamanship/navigation, search and rescue, leadership, logistics, civil engineering, humanitarian assistance and disaster response.'⁶²

In the Horn of Africa in 2003, a Conflict and Early Warning Response Network (CEWARN) was set up by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). A British Parliamentary report tells us that 'Since 2005 it [CEWARN] has collaborated with IGAD's Climate Prediction and Assessment Centre (ICPAC), with the aim of ensuring that conflict prevention and disaster management experts in both bodies develop a coherent, multi-dimensional approach to early warning efforts.'⁶³

In August 2007, Theresa Whelan, the Pentagon's Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Africa, said:

'The intent is to create a command that is as unique and diverse as Africa itself. Doing so will require better integration of U.S. government capacity building efforts across the spectrum of U.S. agencies. One of the Deputy "Commanders" will be a senior-level State Department official. Other senior-level civilian representatives from numerous U.S. agencies will collaborate to help African nations tackle the security challenges related to humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, disease, poverty, deforestation, building partnership capacities, civic action, etc.'⁶⁴

Behind the smile

⁶² Ploch (see note 1).

⁶³ Jon Lunn, 'Interlocking crises in the Horn of Africa', House of Commons Library, Research Paper 08/86, 25 November, 2008, p. 62. At <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/RP08-86/interlocking-crisis-in-the-horn-of-africa>>.

⁶⁴ Theresa Whelan, 'Why AFRICOM?', Department of Defense, August, 2007 at <<http://www.africom.mil/Content/CustomPages/ResearchPage/pdfFiles/Why%20AFRICOM-Whelan-August2007.pdf>>.

As US imperialism wears the smiley face of humanitarian assistance and intervention, military documents confirm plans to cause natural disasters, including floods, droughts, and plagues. In the year 2000, the Project for the New American Century, which consists of members of the then Bush administration, predicted that 'advanced forms of biological warfare that can "target" specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool'. This was compounded by the UK MoD several years later in a thirty-year projection: 'biotechnology and genetic engineering *may* be combined to create "designer" bio-weapons to target crops, livestock, or particular ethnic groups.' (emphasis in original)⁶⁵

Giving more details, a CIA memo, titled *The Darker Bioweapons Future*, notes:

'The effects of some of these engineered biological agents could be worse than any disease known to manThe complex biochemical pathways that underlie life processes has the potential to enable a class of new, more virulent biological agents engineered to attack distinct biochemical pathways and elicit specific effects'.

According to the CIA:

'weaponized gene therapy vectors [could] effect permanent change in the victim's genetic makeup; or a stealth virus, which could lie dormant inside the victim for an extended period before *being* triggered.' (emphasis in original)

The authors note

'the possibility of a stealth virus attack that could cripple a large portion of people in their forties with severe arthritis, concealing its hostile origin and leaving a country with massive health and economic problems.'⁶⁶

Likewise, under the heading *Biotechnical, Genetic Alteration*, the U.S. Air Force's Institute for National Security Studies

⁶⁵ Donnelly (see note 19), and MOD (see note 7).

⁶⁶ Central Intelligence Agency Directorate of Intelligence, 'The Darker Bioweapons Future', 3 November, 2003, at <<http://www.fas.org/irp/cia/product/bw1103.pdf>>.

noted in 1996 the potential to develop weapons for 'The act of changing genetic code[s] to create a desired less-than-lethal but long-term disablement effect, perhaps for generations, thereby creating a societal burden.'⁶⁷

We also find that weather warfare and biotech diseases are combining. In 2012, a former high-level employee of the intelligence/PR firm Booz Allen Hamilton wrote a letter to *The Guardian* newspaper, in which he said:

[States] regularly alter weather and geologic events for various military and black operations, which are tied to secondary objectives, including demographic, energy and agricultural resource management. Indeed, warfare now includes the technological ability to induce, enhance or direct cyclonic events, earthquakes, drought and flooding, including the use of polymerised aerosol viral agents and radioactive particulates carried through global weather systems. Various themes in public debate, including global warming, have unfortunately been subsumed into much larger military and commercial objectives that have nothing to do with broad public environmental concerns. These include the gradual warming of polar regions to facilitate naval navigation and resource extraction.'⁶⁸

This is official US Air Force and Army policy. It is called the Owning the Weather initiative. A US Department of Defense Report from circa 1999 states:

'The United States Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca (USAIC&FH) is the functional proponent for Army tactical weather support. USAIC&FH represents the warfighter by developing solutions to satisfy Army weather requirements. In addition, it serves as the proponent for the "Owning the Weather" (OTW) program

⁶⁷ Robert J. Bunker (ed.), 'Nonlethal Weapons: Terms and References', INSS Occasional Paper 15, US Air Force Institute for National Security Studies, Colorado: US Air Force Academy, p. 11, at <www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA365328>

⁶⁸ Matt Andersson, 'At war over geo-engineering', letter to *The Guardian*, 9 February 2012, <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/09/at-war-over-geoengineering>>.

– a concept for exploiting weather as a force multiplier on the battlefield.’⁶⁹

A UK parliamentary report on *The Regulation of Geoengineering* states:

‘schemes that inject particles into the atmosphere are likely to alter the distribution of rainfall and also cause some reduction in the global quantity of rainfall..... [L]arger adverse impacts are possible, potentially on a global scale.’⁷⁰

The UK MoD confirms that out to 2040, ‘Weather modification will continue’, and adds

Environmental warfare will be capable of exploiting the delivery and spread of plant and human pathogens through the release of remote controlled insect-machine hybrids or insects, in order to cause physical, and subsequently, financial damage. Such methods may be used as incapacitants or as lethal pathogens to attack humans.⁷¹

The US now has the capability to alter the weather on a large scale and to spread ethno-specific viruses. Given the number of disasters – from locust plagues to failed harvests – increasingly affecting Africa, why should we believe that they are all natural and that the US Defense Department would not seek to enhance disaster as a pretext for intervention?

This essay has examined the Euro-American militarization of key African states and surrounding areas, as well as the transformation of military forces to ‘humanitarian’

⁶⁹ United States Air Force, ‘Department of Defense Weather Programs’, no date, circa 1999, Section 3, <www.ofcm.gov/fedplan/fp-fy01/pdf/sec3b_dod.pdf>.

⁷⁰ House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, ‘The Regulation of Geoengineering’, Fifth Report of Session 2009–10, HC 221, 18 March, 2010, London: Stationary Office, <www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmsctech/221/221.pdf>.

⁷¹ The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre, ‘Strategic Trends Programme: Global Strategic Trends – Out to 2040’ (4th edition), Ministry of Defence (UK), 9 February 2010, p. 156, <www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/38651ACB-D9A9-4494-98AA-1C86433BB673/0/gst4_update9_Feb10.pdf>

and crisis missions. There is a great deal more to say about other areas of imperial domination, including cultural warfare.

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID, now UKAid more generally) and Westminster Foundation for Democracy, for example, finance propaganda in Ghana, Kenya and elsewhere.⁷² DFID has been instrumental in privatising Nigeria's power grids and, as the War on Want has documented, promoting Syngenta, Unilver, and other GMO food companies in Tanzania, Ethiopia and elsewhere.⁷³ Financial control via international debt mechanisms (typically the IMF and World Bank) are also hindering genuine development. New strategies envisage the promotion of microloans at village levels managed by NGOs.⁷⁴

The military is the primary focus of this essay because without the 'iron fist' of power, the 'velvet glove' of enculturation, debt, and market forces could not operate.

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72 <www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-kenya-operational-plan-2013> and <www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc1213/hc04/0478/0478.pdf>.

73 <www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmintdev/840/840i.pdf> and <www.waronwant.org/attachments/The%20Hunger%20Games%202012.pdf>.

74 <<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/CSO/0,,contentMDK:20092185~menuPK:220422~pagePK:220503~piPK:220476~theSitePK:228717,00.html>>