

## The Devil Amongst Us

*“The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was to make people believe he didn’t exist”*  
Charles Baudelaire (albeit embarrassingly from the Usual Suspects)

When asked why I believe in the existence of the devil, I answer “I have not seen him but I see his doing every day.” Today the Congolese people are facing the most powerful institutions of the past twenty years or since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War: The Multinationals. Contrary to popular belief in the Congo, the enemies, because there are indeed enemies, are not “Tutsis” or the PPRD or even the international community. The adversary of the Congolese people is not even Joseph Kabila, Jean Pierre Bemba or even Louis Michel but ambiguous and unnatural persons (corporations are legal persons) working in unnatural ways that operates in the shadows and has manage to make people believe they did not exist. Anyone who talks about them is called an anarchist, or a racist or anti-globalization which has become akin to anti-progress as if the only route to human progress was the globalization of markets and the separation of peoples. Think about it how could a semi-literate person such as Thomas Lubanga, who seems out of his depth in The Hague where he is the only Congolese war lord in trial, possess the necessary contacts and resources to not only get gold and coltan<sup>1</sup> out of Ituri province, “Hell on Earth” according to former EU’s development Commissioner Emma Bonino, into the world markets and get the sophisticated weapons that permitted him to bring Darkness into Ituri? All this in the eyes of the American, European, Chinese and Japanese hyper-powers. The DRC is home to 80% of global reserves of coltan, is it conceivable to assume that firms such as Sonny Ericsson, Nintendo or Motorola had no idea where the coltan they used to make their goods came from?

The forces, which since the 14<sup>th</sup> century have created so much misery for Man and the African in particular, are much bigger than Kabila, Kagame, or Michel. It is in fact a struggle best described by Marx as a “class struggle” the haves versus the have not, regardless of race, creed, religion or gender. Thanks to an overwhelming control of the Weapons of Mass Indoctrination (WMI i.e. schools and the mass medias) the “devil” has manage to not only convince us that he did not exist but also that the current system an age-old system that is trying to put Man in the service of the market was the only viable social model for humanity. Now, I’m not a communist but one must accept that has much as capitalism has done in creating wealth it has been unable or is not capable of creating the flimsiest notion of social justice, it simply can not distribute wealth! As of 2006, 2% of the planet held some 67% of global wealth, because of greed some

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<sup>1</sup> Coltan is an essential component of electronic appliances such as cell phones, computers or video game consoles.  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coltan>

where destroying the planet while making efforts to discredit the reality that is global warning. In an age of unprecedented wealth, more than half the planet lives on less than \$2 a day, yet we are told that the very system that created those inequalities is our only salvation. “Let people pursue their own interest and the aggregate will be greater welfare for all” they tell us, while their proxies can not make good on their self chosen Millennium Goals, another way to captivate our hearts and minds, dictatorial China, where everything is state owned, has lifted the largest amount of people out of poverty in the shortest amount of time in recorded history. People with ties to those who sent 3,000 American soldiers and countless Iraqi civilians to their death in the invasion of Iraq have profited during the ten year Congolese “civil war”<sup>2</sup>, which has made anything between 4,000,000 and 10,000,000 deaths. The table below is a short illustration.<sup>3</sup>

| <b>Company</b>                       | <b>Directors</b>   | <b>Role</b>                                    | <b>Industry/Location</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Barrick Gold                         | George Bush Sr     | Former US President<br>Honorary Senior Advisor | Gold/Bunia, Ituri        |
| Barrick Gold                         | Brian Mulroney     | Former PM of Canada<br>Board of Directors      | Gold/Bunia, Ituri        |
| Citizen Energy Corp.                 | Edward Kennedy     | Senator from MA<br>Board of Directors          | Natural Gas/Lake Albert  |
| America Mineral Fields International | Maurice Templesman | Jackie Kennedy last lover                      | Diamond/Mbuji Mayi       |

This is but a short list of people holding directorships in companies involved in the DRC. For example a Chevron Texaco’s oil tanker in the DRC is called the “Condoleezza Rice” after the (Black i.e. African) US Secretary of State.<sup>4</sup> Another personality in the Boards of Directors of at least one company doing business in the DRC at the heist of the is Vernon Jordan<sup>5</sup> (African-American Attorney, personal friend of President Bill Clinton and a member of the Iraq Study Group), there are also Africans, like Paul Kagame, Joseph Kabila or Jean Pierre Bemba, interestingly enough when the UN panel released its report on the “Illegal exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Sources of Wealth in the DRC”<sup>6</sup> there were no mention of Barrick Gold, there were no mention of the firms buying coltan, instead we were given the names Colonel Peter Karim, Jean Pierre Bemba, Nozi Mwamba or Denis Kalume, as if those people could wreck such havoc and bring the resources extracted from their (forced) labor-camps to the Nintendo’s, or Barrick Gold through their own effort. Recently Anvil Mining<sup>7</sup> a Canadian firm, which has a former US ambassador to DRC, Ghana

<sup>2</sup> The Congolese “civil war” is the bloodiest conflict since World War II.

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/congojournal/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.barrick.com/Default.aspx?SectionID=0dfbe64c-97d0-4640-a200-15dfba1e22f5&LanguageId=1> ; <http://www.citizensenergy.com/APangolaFund.htm> ; <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=116>

<sup>4</sup> From 1991 to 2001, Condoleezza Rice served as a director at Texaco,

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cabinda.net/Angola-Arms-for-Oil-Scandal.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/567/36/IMG/N0356736.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.anvil.com.au/index.shtml>

(Kenneth L. Brown) and various retired Canadian officials on its Board of Directors, recognized that it had given vehicles and money to government forces accused of killing villagers in Kilwa, Katanga.<sup>8</sup>

You will concur, the “capitalist” knows no other master than money. He fights Bin Laden and his cronies because they call God “Allah” and not “Dollar” while at the same time supporting the House of Saoud in Saudi Arabia, a country where women have no right and the home of a corrupt and fundamentalist regime. In Venezuela he first tried to get rid of Chavez through a military coup d’etat and then a constitutional one, while it embraced Pinochet as a guarantor of Freedom. In Iraq Saddam Hussein is put to death while Moqtada Al Sadr and his Medhi army death squads’ kills in complete impunity. While Ahmadinejad (another “man of God”) is called public enemy number 1, nuclear hardware is sold to India and the Israeli nuclear problem is given approval in a tacit silence, so much for a nuclear free Middle-East. Finally in the DRC, Thomas Lubanga, a small fish in a big pond, is sent to the International Criminal Court in The Hague for his part in one of the Congolese genocides<sup>9</sup>, while the main actors Bemba, Kabila and Ruberwa are legitimized, the first as the new leader of the opposition, the second as President and the later as a future member of the government, in what amounts to Fast-Democracy.<sup>10</sup>

Karel de Gucht, Belgium’s Foreign Minister, who a few years ago lamented the total lack there of a “Congolese political class” now applauds Kabila and warns him that changing mining contracts, which many have called exploitative, will be a grave mistake, they are he says “quintessential to Congolese development.” As I stated earlier the struggle is not new, we are simply witnessing the triumph of exploitation also known as capitalism and globalization a phenomenon that has been going on for century from the moment Africans were taken into slavery as a transfer of a commodity (i.e. labor) to today when globalization means globalizations of the markets and separation of the peoples, while the US is pushing for NAFTA it wants to build a fence in its border with Mexico, while the IMF and the World Bank are pushing for freedom of movements of goods and capital the powers behind those institutions are restricting freedom of movement of people or workers according to EU Treaty phraseology. Arch-neo-conservator Francis Fukuyama<sup>11</sup> talks about the “End of History and the Last Man” at a time where the majority, the “wretched of the Earth” is fed up with a system that aims to subjugate Man for the benefit of the globalization of markets.

Today, the peoples of the Earth are seething with anger across the globe, in the West they want a

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<sup>8</sup> When a new ten member “rebel movement” declaring the independence of Katanga in Kilwa, a region where Anvil had some mining interest, government soldiers paid and flown there courtesy of Anvill massacred hundreds according to ASADHO a Congolese NGO. [http://www.cadtm.org/article.php3?id\\_article=2341](http://www.cadtm.org/article.php3?id_article=2341)

<sup>9</sup> If Srebrenica, where about 8,500 were killed is considered genocide then what is happening in the DRC surely qualifies. [http://www.gendecide.org/case\\_srebrenica.html](http://www.gendecide.org/case_srebrenica.html)

<sup>10</sup> The DRC has a democracy where votes are for sale, the candidates can not define ideology

<sup>11</sup> Lately he has said that he no longer considered himself a neo-con because of the Iraq fiasco.

change in a political process that has lost all legitimacy and they want to reign in multinational corporations. Every day the so-called anti-globalization movement (the real globalization movement as it is the only one fighting to bring people rather than markets together) make headways. That is the movement that all Congolese patriots must join, for we can not fight the devil alone. Against enemies that have followed Machiavelli's advice and divide to rule, we look at each other as nations, tribes, races, Jews, Gentiles, Christian, Muslims, East, West, North, South motivated by race, religion, ethnicity and so on while they define themselves only as "multinationals" or market actors motivated only by profit. This is a perpetual struggle for the soul of humanity a struggle against the hegemony of an ideology that holds as its only axiom the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a minority, an ideology determined to use Man in the service of the market and for which everything including our mind, body and soul is for sale. A system that has erected the pursuit of desire as a norm even when this endangers the planet or ourselves and while the system promises development it only brings underdevelopment (economic, social and spiritual), while it promises openness it closes down man made borders. It is time for the majority, for the peoples to rise, this can not be the End of History, we can not capitulate, the devil is amongst us, let's prepare for Armageddon!