

## A different sort of victim

The Americans had no trouble supporting various dictatorships over the recent past who were bent on exterminating segments of their own people. They had no problems supporting Guatemalan leaders waging a war against their indigenous people, resulting in several hundred thousand civilian casualties. They had no problems in supporting the Chilean dictator Pinochet who tortured and killed several thousand internal opponents. They also have no problem in supporting Turkey's effort to suppress their Kurdish insurgents. But when it comes to Yugoslavia trying to eliminate the separatist movement of Kosovo Albanians, the Americans and NATO take that as an opportunity to show their allegiance with an ethnic minority. What the Kurds, Pinochet's opponents and the Guatemalan indios have in common are their tendencies to associate themselves with Socialist/leftist causes, while the Kosovo Albanians are probably among the strongest anti-communist group in the Balkans. So all the high rhetoric of entering this war to nip things in the bud, to avoid devastating delays of involvement such as in the second world war, where Americans did everything to avoid saving the Jewish people from Hitler, and to travel the moral high ground against ethnic cleansing, appears rather phony when the political choices are taken into consideration. This even goes further when Milosevic himself is concerned. As long as his army was engaged in "ethnic cleansing" of Bosnian and other Moslems, or even of Croatians who had a historic affiliation with fascist Germany, the Americans held their horses. But as soon as the new NATO alliance has been forged, one month after Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland have signed up, Clinton pulls another Wag-the-Dog war to show that he can make up for some of the mistakes that America has made in the past. But in fact, this show of force has no other purpose than to strengthen the newly expanded Greater European Alliance in the face of a shaky post-Communist East. It is clear that just like Saddam Hussein's stronghold on his country has been reinforced by each American attack, so will Milosevic's rulership in Yugoslavia. Even on the second day of the NATO action, the attacks on Kosovars seem to be increasing and more people are fleeing into countries that cannot absorb them, precisely the opposite of what is ostensibly intended by this action. To say that the air-strikes are designed to halt the campaign against the Albanian militia and civilian population in Kosovo is like saying you can stop an internal terrorist war by targeting the makers of big guns. But the fact is that the massacres that have occurred recently in Kosovo were carried out with pistols and knives, and nothing more than a determined police force is needed to continue these type of actions. So then the real purpose of the NATO attack would have to be the opposite: To speed up the process of ethnic cleansing by forcing the Serbian Army to resort to more low-level guerilla tactics, while at the same time eliminating them as a potential threat to the surrounding allies. Once the Serbs have completed their expulsion and extermination of Kosovar Albanians, they will have to settle peacefully in their borders, no longer destabilizing the vital bridge between Western Europe and the Bosphorus. Albania per se is not of interest to the US, but Yugoslavia is. It could easily become an ally of the West, once it has completed its internal warfare, just as they were able to accomplish vis-a-vis Croatia. So by stepping in and ostensibly helping an oppressed minority, which happens to be seriously anti-Communist, NATO can sell this war to its political leaders without fully acknowledging its strategic goals. The reward is a low-casualty multi-nation war-

game which weakens a former Soviet ally externally, but strengthens him internally. The war will be over when all Kosovar Albanians have been killed or displaced and when Yugoslavia's air defense system and heavy weapon industry have been substantially degraded. At that point the West and East can resume their competition to help restock the Yugoslavian armamentarium until it makes up its mind whether it wants to belong to the Western alliance or some hypothetical Eastern bloc.