

Craxi, calls for a genocidal reduction of the Italian population from today's 60 million to 20 million.

Institutionally, Craxi has voiced his commitment to create a single "lay" party grouping, which, excluding the Christian Democrats and the Communists, would include the prodrug, proterrorist Radicals, the Liberals, the Social Democrats, the Republicans and—although this has not yet been stated, except behind closed doors—the historical party of fascism, the MSI (Italian Social Movement). That political structure would constitute the modern version of Mussolini's NFP, and would annihilate whatever it could not succeed in assimilating until a perfectly totalitarian situation were consolidated.

Although the utter dismantling of mass-based political parties like the DC and PCI may seem impossible, the Craxi threat is not to be underestimated. Despite the fact that the PSI controls only 10 percent of the electorate, it has risen to the position of literally conditioning Italian politics because of its decades-long policy of systematically undermining social institutions. Modeling its activities on the terrorist campaigns of Mussolini, the PSI has, since the tragic 1969 Milan bombings, used political terrorism and Watergate-style scandals to erode the nation's republican institutions. Any politician, trade unionist, magistrate, policeman, journalist, or intellectual who stood in the way has been ruthlessly mowed down. When, in 1979, the Andreotti faction was definitively defeated, the PSI stepped into government power, signaling the terrorists' de facto seizure of power.

If Craxi is not stopped by political developments from outside Italy, he, like his idol Mussolini, will go all the way to dictatorial control.

What that would mean for Europe and the world is simply what it meant last time round. The Second International and Jesuit forces backing Craxi's meteoric rise to power in Italy are intending to use that battered Mediterranean country as they did after 1922, as a battering ram against the Giscard-Schmidt European axis. The Second International's mobilization to unseat Giscard by electing Mitterrand and thereby to topple Schmidt hinges in part on the success of their operations in the southern flank. This points up the significance of Italy's de facto break with the European Monetary System (since Andreotti's 1979 ouster), its break with the Saudis (through a PSI-orchestrated oil bribery scandal) and its strategic economic ties to the outlaw regime of Libya.

Italy, under Craxi, is to be the first domino to fall in a series of planned Second International fascist takeovers of Europe's sovereign nations. Just like in 1922 and 1933. The question is: will the well-meaning observers abroad let it happen? Or will they prevent it before a third world war breaks them out of complacency?

Fifth Republic

The fate of France is at second-round fight for

The final runoff of the French presidential elections on May 10 is shaping up as the toughest and most crucial electoral fight in the history of the Fifth Republic.

What is at stake in these elections is the continued existence of the Fifth Republic itself, which the Socialist International's François Mitterrand has devoted his political career to destroying. Mitterrand was a leading supporter of the unstable, crisis-ridden Fourth Republic, in which he served frequently as minister. The Fourth Republic came close to destroying the French nation before it was saved by Charles de Gaulle's bold creation of the Fifth Republic.

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Second-round fight

The extremely close results from the first round "primary" on April 26 indicate an even tougher fight for the second round than the one that took place in 1974, when Giscard defeated Mitterrand in the runoff by a margin of only 400,000 votes.

Mitterrand's vote last week was higher than the total he achieved in two previous presidential bids. An additional indication of how tough a fight lies ahead for the next two weeks is that if one simply adds to Mitterrand's vote the percentage achieved by several left and extreme-left candidates and one ecologist candidate—all of whom have to pull out of the race—Mitterrand tops the 50 percent mark.

However, the result of the second round is never determined on the basis of simply adding up "left" and "right" votes from the first round. That is the trap confronting Giscard between now and May 10.

The results of the April 26 election also serve to

stake in the the presidency

underscore several important shifts in the French political landscape which, in addition to the immediate bearing they will have on the second round, will have a long-term significance.

The Communist Party

French Communist Party (PCF) General Secretary Georges Marchais' 15 percent score is the lowest turnout for the PCF since 1936, when it first became a major force in French politics.

The PCF traditionally turns out between 19 and 22 percent of the vote, and its 15 percent showing represents the hard core of PCF support in the country. There is no question that François Mitterrand's high score is the product of a direct shift by 5 percent of the PCF's periphery to the Socialist candidate. A conjuncture of several events, from the situation in Poland and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, combined with a reaction to the party's recently renewed radicalism, partially explains the shift.

The bad turnout for the PCF is no cause for conservative rejoicing.

Marchais' low vote has already led to a shift in the party's tactics that could give a large boost to Mitterrand. In the longer term, it will result in a reorganization of the PCF leadership, possibly including the removal of Marchais as the head of the party.

The Central Committee of the PCF met on April 28 and emerged with a decision which overruled Marchais's previous stance toward the Socialists. The Central Committee called for unconditional support for Mitterrand and for the party to mobilize to "do everything necessary to beat Giscard and his policies." The declaration referred to Mitterrand's refusal to agree to take Communist ministers in his government if he is elected, but downplayed it.

This contrasts with the position Marchais had taken during his campaign, when he insisted that Communist

votes for the second round would have to be negotiated in exchange for ministerial posts. Marchais' tactic made him, in effect, Giscard's best ally, since the specter of Communist Party members in the government kept many conservatives away from Mitterrand.

It remains to be seen, however, if the formidable PCF machine will go all out on Mitterrand's behalf. Not only does the PCF leadership generally despise Mitterrand, but the PCF is also more comfortable in its role as an opposition party, exerting pressure on wage demands, on foreign policy, and so on. The PCF prefers to *have* some power rather than to be *in* power.

Moreover, Mitterrand has affirmed that if he is elected he will immediately dissolve the National Assembly and hold new elections, hoping to win a majority in the assembly that would better suit his rule. There is no reason for the PCF to want to precipitate another round of national elections at a time when it has lost considerable support.

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After the April 26 elections one can no longer speak of the existence of a "Gaullist party" in France. The feeble showing of the courageous Michel Debré (1.6 percent), coauthor with de Gaulle of the constitution of the Fifth Republic, reflects the decay. Debré's vote represents the hard-core intelligentsia of the Gaullist old guard, which has progressively lost control of the party since Jacques Chirac seized its presidency in 1976, after resigning as Giscard's prime minister.

One can no longer speak of a Gaullist party, but only of a Chiracian RPR (Rassemblement pour la République—Rally for the Republic) party. The RPR is increasingly characterized by its radical populist appeal to the petty prejudices of the shopkeepers, small landowners, and the like.

The sociological base of the "party of Gaullism" is therefore no longer truly Gaullist in the sense of Gaullism's national purpose and the search for national unity. Those elements of the population who still maintain that sense are to be found either in Giscard's camp or around Michel Debré and the historic "barons" of Gaullism who surround him.

In a mirror image to the shift in voting pattern on the left, the 3 percent that Giscard lost from his 1974 total can be found in Chirac's camp.

The danger for Giscard comes from the deliberate wrecking operation that Chirac has carried out with the guidance of his top aides and supporters, Charles Pasqua, Jacques Foccard, and Jacques Médecin.

Chirac has done everything within his power over the past six months to weaken President Giscard, cut out his voting base, and radicalize his own troops against the presidency. Although he has not managed to get into the runoff, he has unquestionably and deliberately served the cause of François Mitterrand.

Chirac has now announced that he personally will vote for Giscard on May 10, but that he will not campaign for the president. In short, Chirac has done the minimum necessary to avoid accusations of treason against the Fifth Republic, while doing nothing to ensure Giscard's victory.

The first member of Chirac's camp to come out with an open endorsement for Mitterrand is Paris deputy Le Tac, who represents the "Pigalle" red-light district and is sponsoring a bill to legalize prostitution.

Large numbers of Gaullist leaders, however, are preparing to spend the next period convincing their own and Chirac's base to cast what they are calling "the vote of reason" on May 10. Pierre Messmer, former prime minister under de Gaulle, a "baron" who had been heading Chirac's campaign committee, has already issued an appeal for a Giscard turnout, as have numerous other historic figures.

General Billotte, who served as chief of staff of the army under de Gaulle, wrote in support of Giscard in *Le Figaro* on April 28, pointing out, "Isn't it revealing that the governments of Moscow and Washington, each attached in their own way to avoiding the worst, do not hide their ardent hope for a third Mitterrand failure?"

Billotte is on the mark in pointing out that "avoiding the worst"—war—depends on Giscard's re-election. The time left must be spent convincing the French electorate that this is the case.

Giscard would be ill advised to try to win re-election on the basis of the simple-minded slogan that Mitterrand as president would be "hostage" to the Communists. Ultimately this would only lead to Giscard's being cut off from the organic support that exists for many of his policies among the PCF base and its large trade union, the CGT.

Rather, Giscard must counterpose his own excellent record on international issues, his initiation of a new international monetary system, and France's ambitious nuclear program to the policies of the international vice-chairman Mitterrand. And that, all experts agree, will determine the outcome of the historic vote on May 10.

Giscard is the only

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Founder and

At this moment, the enemies of France are deploying immense financial and other resources into France in the attempt to defeat President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. If these enemies of France were to succeed, not only would France begin to be destroyed as Italy has been destroyed, civilization itself would be in immediate danger.

I do not exaggerate in the slightest degree.

The international forces spending vast efforts to defeat President Giscard include:

- The Socialist International of Willy Brandt, Olof Palme, François Mitterrand and Italy's Bettino Craxi are determined to destroy immediately the governments of President Giscard, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany, and President Ronald Reagan of the United States.
- These forces of the Socialist International are openly allied with a Soviet faction led by Boris Ponomarev.
- Vast efforts to defeat President Giscard are being deployed with aid of the funds of Libya.
- Forces in Britain, including the Socialist International-allied British Fabian Society, are presently deploying a maximum of their resources to defeat President Giscard, destabilize the government of Chancellor Schmidt, and unleash internal chaos in the United States against President Reagan.

Up to this time, since the January 1977 inauguration of the evil President Jimmy Carter, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has, to my knowledge, performed two principal, irreplaceable, and continuing services to civilization itself.

On the economic front, since the 1971 destruction of the U.S. dollar, the world has faced a growing monetary inflation, bringing us closer each month to the outbreak of a depression which would be more profound than that we suffered during the period between the two previous world wars of this century. The Carter administration, a