

U.S. opens new battlefield: against Germany and Japan

by Kathleen Klenetsky

The war which the U.S. just waged against Iraq was aimed at showing the Third World as a whole, that the U.S. is prepared to back up its colonialist new world order with devastating force. But it was also a war against Germany and Japan, the two countries which, by virtue of their successful economies, have been designated as the next leading adversaries of the Anglo-American combine. And, as the Desert Storm dust settles, it becomes clearer every moment that the U.S. is not taking on Germany and Japan because they are so economically strong, but because the United States has dithered away its own industrial and technological power over the last two decades. As *EIR* cannot overemphasize, this takedown of the U.S. American System of economy was pushed every inch of the way by the same British who were "behind the U.S. all the way" in the Gulf war.

The war was just the continuation through other means of Bush administration policy toward Germany and Japan. Over the past two years, Bush administration officials have gone on record numerous times, asserting that the real enemy of the U.S. is not the Soviet Union, but these two countries, as CIA director William Webster did in a speech in Los Angeles in September 1989. The entire U.S. intelligence apparatus has been transformed into an economic warfare unit, charged with devising ways and means of sabotaging the ability of these countries to offer a productive alternative to the parasitical, post-industrial lunacy embraced by the U.S.

That Germany and Japan were among the key targets of Desert Storm is an open secret, acknowledged privately by U.S. officials, and publicly by many others. As Gianfranco Miglio, an Italian academic who backed the U.S. Gulf policy, told the March issue of the Rome-based magazine *30 Days*: "The U.S. saw that to avoid falling into a decline similar to that of the Soviet Union, it had to keep pace with

potential adversaries of the future. They include Japan and the continent of Europe united around German economic power. . . . The United States could not accept the idea of Europe as it is today, a continent that cannot only manage quite happily without America, but one which is economically and technologically more powerful."

After the Dresden-like bombing of Baghdad, the Bush crew is cynically employing its new-found leverage to extort political and economic concessions from its erstwhile allies. Aside from leveling Iraq, the war has achieved the goal, set back in the early 1970s by Henry Kissinger, of controlling the bulk of the world's oil supplies. With the continued U.S. military presence in West Asia, Washington will be able to exercise enormous economic blackmail power against a host of other countries which depend upon Mideast oil exports for their energy.

Washington is hoping to exploit the reopening of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations to finally force Japan and Europe to abandon important protections for their home industries and farmers. At the same time, it has various schemes for looting their treasuries of these countries to pay for Desert Storm, through demands that they foot the bill for not only Operation Desert Storm itself, but also for rebuilding of Kuwait—even though the bulk of the very lucrative contracts to do so have already been awarded to U.S. companies, including Ollie North's Guardian Technologies!

The U.S. has already collected over \$5 billion from Bonn, even though the German government has had to divert money from its program to rebuild its five eastern states, and impose tough new taxes to do so. Japan has handed the U.S. nearly \$2 billion, and its Diet is now engaged in a bitter debate over the additional \$9 billion (see p. 11).

Congressional bullies

The question of allied financial contributions has provided the Bush administration with the perfect pretext to put Japan and Germany against the wall. And in the U.S. Congress, eager to look for scapegoats for its own policy incompetence, Democrats and Republicans alike are carrying out a vitriolic campaign against Germany and Japan for failing to cough up their "contribution." Never mind that neither country expressed much enthusiasm for the Anglo-American crusade to begin with; they are "rich," and they should be made to pay. "We were not allowed to be in the decision" to go to war, complained one prominent Japanese. "But now we are expected to pay for it." Congress is considering measures to punish the recalcitrants. One such is the "Persian Gulf War Cost-Sharing Act," introduced by Rep. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.). Backed by 35 co-sponsors, the bill would require the President to enter mandatory cost-sharing agreements with Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

According to Dorgan, Japan should bear 25% of U.S. military costs, Germany 15%, and the Saudis and Kuwaitis together, 50%. The bill would impose import tariffs on Japan or any other country which refused to sign an agreement. The tariff would be used to collect funds equal to that nation's share of the war. During a Senate floor debate in late February, one member after another rose to excoriate Japan and Germany. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the subcommittee on foreign aid, complained that Japan's reluctance to come up with the full amount shows "arrogant condescension." He added: "I have never seen such a reaction, an anti-Japanese reaction, as there is in the Congress today from people, many of us who have been very strong supporters of ties with Japan."

And an explicit threat of trade war came from Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), who warned that there could be an imposition of trade tariffs on both Japan and Germany, should these countries not pay up. Tariffs could end a lot of "palavering around," Hollings said. If Japan's Diet doesn't okay the billions in tribute, "we'll get it through the Port of Charleston. When they ship it in down there, we'll take the tariff."

But the contributions issue is just one small part. The administration intends to increase the pressure on Germany in particular to forego its constitutional ban on deploying its military beyond its borders, so that it can be forced to participate militarily in whatever future Operation Desert Storms the U.S. may now be planning against other hapless Third World nations.

Although the *Washington Post* headline over Hobart Rowen's column March 3 read, "Japan and Germany Must Take Bigger Military, Policy-Making Roles in World Affairs," the theme was quite different: "In the future, Japan and Germany can no longer sit by, watching other nations' troops provide them a security umbrella."

Rowen quoted former White House aide Jeffrey Garten: "We are competitors of the Germans and Japanese in a lot of

areas. They have been able to build their economies to a luxury level and we have defended them with our military might. They have got to pitch in, in the future. And their money is not enough." Garten is writing a book on Germany and Japan as America's new adversaries for the Twentieth-Century Fund.

Death penalty for development?

A revised version of the Export Administration Act of 1979, adopted by the Senate in late February, attests to how far the U.S. is prepared to go to force Germany and Japan to adopt the policies that have devastated the United States economy, and abandon the policies—as did the U.S.—which gave them the sobriquet "economic miracles." The act includes additional sanctions against Iraq that make the Versailles Treaty look magnanimous. And it also includes drastic new sanctions against any country that either uses or *plans* to use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and against any country or company that assists certain categories of countries in developing these weapons.

To understand the real significance of these sanctions, it is necessary to realize that the Bush administration plans to use the bogeyman of Third World weapons proliferation, to bring about a policy of "technological apartheid," through which nearly *all* high-tech exports, civilian as well as military, to the developing sector will be ended. Germany and Japan, as important sources of capital-intensive exports, have got to be blackmailed or otherwise persuaded to stop.

The Senate debate over the measure made it readily apparent that Germany is a key target; nearly everyone who made a comment on the bill, or offered an amendment, referenced the recent media hype accusing German firms of supplying Nazi-like poison gas to the Iraqis.

The real killer, so to speak, was a set of amendments proposed by Sen. Alan Specter (R-Pa.), which would make it a terrorist act to either use weapons of mass destruction, or aid in the development of such weapons, against a U.S. citizen anywhere in the world. The amendments call for the death penalty for any person convicted of such a terrorist act (see *EIR*, March 8, p. 68). "This amendment uses an expanded definition of terrorism and provides that the *production of such biological and chemical weapons in itself* constitutes an act of terrorism. This criminalizes the transfer or development of chemical agents for use in biological and chemical weapons" (emphases added). It is also important to note Specter's reference to "chemical agents," for even some of the most common, necessary to produce fertilizers, pesticides, beer, and purify water, can also be used in making chemical weapons.

An aide to Specter confirmed that, hypothetically, a German firm that transferred chemical agents to a country that then used them to produce chemical weapons could, under the amendments, be labeled a terrorist and subjected to the death penalty. Trade war doesn't get much dirtier than this.