

# France: between decadence and hope

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The doom of fallen empires and nations was always caused by what passed for the ruling, “mainstream” opinion among their ruling elites. Men and women in relevant positions of power, from head of state, to high-ranking and lowly bureaucrats, judges, and policemen, find their wills in the grip of a force of “our tradition,” even if the action taken under that influence is disgusting, even, as in the case of some former associates of President François Mitterrand, suicidal.

So, we must understand the monstrous folly of those officials of France’s Socialist government, who supervised the death of Princess Diana. In such a case, the source of the evil deed is not the actual, or non-existent enmity of the official for the victim; it is probable that there was “nothing personal” in the motives of those French officials whose willful, murderous negligence relieved the British monarchy of a former Princess whose continued existence had become a political inconvenience to the Windsors and their lackeys. The relevant French officials’ apparent motive in this case, was the most disgusting sophistry common to the bureaucrats of most na-

tions, including the U.S.A.: “Don’t you see? It was necessary; I was only doing my job.”

Will the Jospin government fall, in a chain-reaction triggered by the very crudeness of its cover-up in the case of Princess Diana’s murder? Possibly, perhaps probably. However, it was doomed in any case; it was doomed for the same reason that apparently isolated incidents have often doomed even the great fallen empires of the past. It is doomed by its lack of moral character, by that flaw in its moral character which is the legacy of the departed former President François Mitterrand.

Jacques Cheminade, a 1995 candidate for election as President of France, and an accomplished professional, and former official of France’s administrative corps, provides an insider’s view of the decadent, doomed tradition which Mitterrand’s Presidency set into place within France’s present administrative establishment today. Thus, the case of Princess Diana expresses the threatened self-doom of that Mitterrand legacy known as the Jospin government. Is there hope that France might survive the mortal defect in the character of its present “mainstream thinking”? Only if it rids itself of that decadence.

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## Mitterrand’s corrupt legacy against France’s Fifth Republic

by Jacques Cheminade

All governments in France, since at least 1980, have continuously and persistently betrayed the sovereignty of their nation-state and the mandate received from their electorate. It is uniquely in that context, that the Lady Diana case can be understood. The extent and reasons for that permanent betrayal are the subject-matter of the present article, written to convey a sense of contemporary French history to an American readership. That sense is not located in the reading of some history book or magazines in one’s comfortable armchair, but in the discovery of the dynamics of a social process.

### **Betrayal as a political habit**

French ultra-liberal polemist Alain Minc, known as the pen of the Parisian nomenklatura, gives a good summary of the last 16 years of French politics: The late President François Mitterrand first betrayed the Fifth Republic from inside, and liquidated what French workers had gained over many years of social battles; current President Jacques Chirac betrayed the inheritance of Gaullism twice; and finally, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, in less than two weeks, abandoned all pretense that he would turn the tide, and thus won, as a reward,