

chov's reign (1985-91). Leaders of the Central Asia Republics, along with Russian figures such as Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, have refused to let the idea die. The desiccation of the Aral Sea, as water from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers was taken for irrigation in Central Asia's Soviet-era cotton monoculture, became one of the greatest environmental catastrophes on Earth.

As for the Bering Strait tunnel project, connecting the Siberian/Far East frontier to the NAWAPA region through Alaska, Federation Council member Aslambek Aslakhonov, a former advisor to Putin as President, revealed in an Aug. 24 interview that it will be on the agenda of the November Group of 20 summit in South Korea. Aslakhonov, who represents the Siberian region of Omsk, said that the Korean hosts were expected to advance this agenda item, while in the Russian government, "the overall attitude is positive" to the Bering Strait project. The concept means not only mineral resource development, Aslakhonov pointed out. "One main advantage," he said, "will be creation of hundreds of thousands of new jobs," as well as the "opportunity to build new houses, whole new communities, and develop industry and the whole region."

Putin's Tour

Prime Minister Putin's strategic tour of Siberia and Russia's Far East began Aug. 23 with his visit to scientific research outposts in the Far North, and continued to the end of the month with visits to Kamchatka, Yakutia, and, via the new highway, the Amur and Trans-Baikal regions. The focus was infrastructure and improving living standards for the region's sparse population—critical issues for creating the economic base to build such great projects as the Bering Strait tunnel.

During his four-day road trip from Khabarovsk to Chita, the first paved road to link the Far East to the rest of the nation, Putin stopped off to lead a meeting at the construction site of Cosmodrome Vostochny on Aug. 28. The next day, he launched the Russia-China section of the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean oil pipeline.

Economic life develops around great projects, Putin said. He told the Cosmodrome meeting that building this facility will reaffirm Russia's "high status and leading position" in space technology and exploration. On July 19, he had announced the allocation of almost 25 billion rubles (over \$800 million) to begin construction of the Cosmodrome in earnest over the next three years. From this location, Putin said, Russia will pursue the exploration of the Moon and Mars.

The Sarrazin Media Hype

Political Realignment Is Coming in Germany

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

This article was translated from German. Helga Zepp-LaRouche is the chair of the Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo).

Sept. 4—The waves of outrage that have flooded Germany since the publication of Thilo Sarrazin's¹ book, *Deutschland schafft sich ab* (*Germany Abolishes Itself*), both for and against the claims he makes about the supposed "dumbing down" of German society by Muslim immigrants, appear at first glance to be genuine. It is true, on the one side, that there have been massive problems in integrating some groups of foreigners, just as it is true that Sarrazin's Darwinist theories are as unscientific as they are inhuman. But when an issue stirs up such deep emotions, a closer look is needed.

When the media carry out such a massive campaign for so many weeks, with the tabloid *Bildzeitung* placing Sarrazin prominently on the first and second pages for days on end, with various talk shows letting not only Sarrazin speak, but opponents of his whose views are just as extreme, one can only ask, knowing how tightly controlled the media are, what the intention behind all this is.

A Diversionary Maneuver

For one thing, it is a huge diversionary maneuver. Suddenly a furious debate is raging as to whether Sarrazin is an incendiary (*Frankfurter Rundschau*) or the victim of a demolition campaign (industrialist Hans-Olaf Henkel), whether the Bundesbank executive board was right to call for his dismissal or whether that will only make him more of a loose cannon.² This whole hullaballoo is designed to shift attention from the fact that the global financial system is on the brink of disintegration,

1. Sarrazin, a politician from the Social Democratic Party, has been a member of the executive board of the Deutsche Bundesbank since April 2009. He served as Senator of Finance for the city-state of Berlin (2002-09). For his career there as the "Felix Rohatyn of Berlin," see *EIR*, April 28, 2006.

2. On Sept. 9, Sarrazin did resign from the board.



Creative Commons/Richard Hebstreit

Thilo Sarrazin presents his racist book

and that the world's leading central bankers, including Bundesbank president Axel Weber, just decided at the Jackson Hole meeting to continue pumping money without restriction, creating the immediate danger of hyperinflation, thus robbing the population of their property.

The Sarrazin show is perfectly suited to shifting the public debate away from those who are responsible for the financial crisis, from the high-risk speculators, from the bailout packages financed with taxpayers' money, and from thinking about an actual solution to the crisis. What can provide a better diversion than a problem that is real enough to heat up emotions and fuel resentments?

Of course, our politicians were wrong—and that holds for all the various ruling coalitions—to bring in immigrants and their families to serve as needed and often unskilled workers, while at the same time stubbornly claiming, into the 1990s, that since Germany is not a country of immigrants, there is no need to spend the money for programs to integrate them. Mandatory language courses and tests and bilingual classes should have been made available decades ago, so that new generations would have been more readily assimilated. The solution can only be to pass the appropriate laws immediately.

It is also true that Germany is in danger, that the demographic trend is disturbing, and that social peace is threatened. However, the main threat does not come from the immigrants, but from our globalized financial policy, which is doomed beyond a shadow of a doubt. And one of the most prominent exponents of this neoliberal monetarist financial policy is none other than the austerity freak Thilo Sarrazin, who also brags of being

responsible for the German Monetary Union, and who worked for the Treuhand during the worst phase.³ Incidentally, his crude ideas were known long before his incredible appointment to the Bundesbank board. But apparently, his callousness towards Hartz-4 welfare recipients and his brutal cuts in social expenditures didn't bother his colleagues on the board.

Bankruptcy of Leadership

Now, the systemic crisis which has escalated over more than three years, together with the inability of the political establishment to eliminate the causes of that crisis and to straighten out the financial and economic system, point to the utter intellectual and moral bankruptcy of the political

class.

This was seen in the recent losses of the Christian Democratic-Free Democratic coalition in Berlin and in North Rhine-Westphalia. Given these routs, and even more so, the turbulence to come, it is obvious that the political spectrum in Germany is going to be realigned.

The existential question is whether the new political parties and alliances will reinforce the mounting anger of the population, or work toward actual solutions to get out of the crisis. The example of the early 1930s, when Communists and National Socialists waged battles against one another amidst the Depression and growing unemployment, should serve as a warning.

When the East-West conflict ceased to be a domain of geostrategic manipulations for imperial purposes, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and when the disappearance of that enemy laid the basis for a true order of peace, including Russia, representatives of the Anglo-American faction, such as Bernard Lewis and Samuel Huntington, quickly tried to replace the East-West conflict by the North-South conflict.

Huntington claimed in his book *The Clash of Civilizations* (1996), which is full of lies and viciousness, that there is an insurmountable antagonism between Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, and that the essential clash boils down to a

3. Under the 1990 Monetary Union, shortly before German reunification, the deutschemark became the official currency of East Germany. The Treuhand was the government agency responsible for privatizing East German industries, which, in fact, destroyed many of them or sold them off for a song.

confrontation between the West and the rest of the world, especially because of the growing pressure from the growth of the Muslim population.

Lewis, who came out of the Arab Bureau of British Intelligence, is another predecessor of Sarrazin. Back in 2004, he told the newspaper *Die Welt* that Europe would eventually become part of the Arab West, of the Maghreb, for reasons of migration and demography. Europeans marry late, he said, and then have only one or very few children, whereas immigration remains strong: Turks in Germany, Arabs in France, and Pakistanis in England. They marry young and have lots of children. Under the present trends, he claimed, Europe would have a Muslim majority by the end of the 21st Century.

So Sarrazin is really not even original, he just copied from others.

What Kind of Realignment?

Clearly, the media hype is intended to push the upcoming political realignment in the direction of a conservative party, to the right of the Christian Democrats (CDU). The magazine *FOCUS* reported back in July on an Emnid opinion poll it had commissioned, which found that one in five Germans could imagine voting for such a new party, a kind of German “Tea Party.” The manpower for such a project has been around for a long time. The first person author Michael Klonovsky names is Thilo Sarrazin, followed by, among others, Paul Kirchhoff, Joachim Gauck, Peter Gauweiler, Oswald Metzger, Eva Hermann, Peter Sloterdijk and Hans-Olaf Henkel. Then, after Sarrazin further whipped up the media frenzy with his unspeakable comments about Jewish genes, the story made the rounds on the Internet that such a party was about to be founded, and that other potential participants were Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, Roland Koch, and Friedrich Merz.

Whether these people actually took part in the “backroom talks” cited by Klonovsky or not, and whether they are even considering such a direction, will not be addressed here. But clearly, at least some of them have shown, at least theoretically, the qualifications for a right-wing shift, because of their attacks on the social state.

This process should not only be viewed as an internal German issue, but in a larger perspective. In France, President Nicolas Sarkozy has just attempted to win over potential National Front voters by expelling Roma (Gypsy) immigrants, while in other countries, right-wing populist or xenophobic parties have scored major

election victories.

Still, all such parties should not be put into one pot—in Hungary and Slovakia, some representatives of those parties have defended their population against the brutal austerity policies of the EU.

The big danger, in the current collapse crisis of monetarism, lies in the attempt to channel the real anger in the population in the direction of racism and, at the same time, to launch a right-wing populist attack against the social state (or the state’s defense of the common good). The experience of the 1930s should have taught us that this mix can very well lead to fascism and catastrophe.

Over the coming period, politics in Germany will undoubtedly be realigned, because the parties represented in the Bundestag have simply messed up too much and too often. But this realignment must be based on finding actual solutions to the crisis, and in that respect, people like Sarrazin have less than nothing to offer.

In the United States, the real opposition is not the Tea Party movement, but rather a growing movement for putting through the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA), a gigantic infrastructure and water project that would provide freshwater to many states from Alaska down along the Rocky Mountains and into Mexico, and create 3-4 million jobs. In Germany, we need a similar movement, which campaigns for creating millions of new productive jobs, which could be done, for example, by building the European Land-Bridge as the BüSo has proposed.

After all, how can the problems of immigration and integration of foreigners be solved? By creating an economic order which allows real development in countries like Turkey or in the Maghreb, so that their citizens have an incentive to remain and rebuild their nations; and, for Germany, for example, by reindustrializing Berlin to become the pivot for Eurasia and for building the Land-Bridge. In that way, many new productive jobs will be created, and young people from a foreign background will have the incentive and the opportunity to learn skills, to have occupational training, and to be integrated into a blooming economy as scientists, engineers, and skilled workers. But that is impossible for the moment in the Berlin of Mayor Wowereit and of Sarrazin, which is poor, but really not so sexy—actually more degenerate.

Therefore, Sarrazin should simply shut up. And the next time, he should find something else to copy—the Sermon on the Mount, for example.