

Italy: From Technocratic To Jacobin Fascism?

by Claudio Celani

As Germany's Brüning government was replaced by Hitler in 1933, Brüning's epigone of today, Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, will be replaced by a modern version of a fascist dictatorship, unless Italy and Europe turn away from self-imposed, destructive austerity policies.

Mario Monti's austerity, which was supposed to improve the financial condition of the Italian economy—albeit sacrificing the productive forces—has produced figures which are worse than any of his predecessors. Never has Italy's overall debt been so high; production is collapsing for the third quarter in a row (auto sales, down 20%), and unemployment, officially 11%, is at a record high. Figures published by the national statistics bureau Istat show that since 2008, youth unemployment has increased by 1.5 million! In contrast, as a result of Monti's EU-dictated pension reform, older people work more. Employment between ages 55 to 64 has increased from 2.4 million to 3.3 million, up 26%. The largest increase was last year, as a result of the Monti reform: Employment over age 55 has increased by 226,000.

Additionally, among the "employed" there is an army of precarious workers, i.e., on short-term contracts, with poor or no social benefits: about 3 million people.

As the social protest against Monti grows, the oligarchy is working to

channel the popular rage into a Jacobin movement, which is already moving to take power. This Jacobin movement is backed by the same pro-British networks in the media, in politics, and in sections of the judiciary which have backed any and every anti-nation-state campaign in Italy, in the postwar period. Its electoral arm is the so-called "Movimento Cinque Stelle" (Five Star Movement), led by "comedian" Beppe Grillo; its propaganda bureau is, besides Grillo's own Internet blog, the daily *Il Fatto*, and a crowd of pro-British journalists in other national press and TV outlets.

D'Annunzio's Ghost

Grillo is a modern caricature of Gabriele D'Annunzio, the true founder of Italian fascism. D'Annunzio was a decadent poet who invented all the symbols of fascism, and created the Black Shirt movement, whose first military operation was the seizure in 1919 of the Istrian city of Fiume (now Rijeka in Croatia). *Mutatis mutandis*, the principal difference between D'Annunzio and Grillo is that, whereas



Cristiano Imperiali

A Jacobin movement in Italy, backed pro-British networks, is led by "comedian" Beppe Grillo (left), whose political antics recall those of the fascist poet Gabriele D'Annunzio (above).

D'Annunzio had to compete with the heritage of Classical giants, such as Verdi and Manzoni in the Italian artistic tradition, and therefore, his decadence had to respect a certain form and skill, Grillo must compete only with post-1968 sex-drug-rock counterculture, and is able to use the Internet.

As to violence, on a smaller scale Grillo's modern fascist *squadristi* have been training for assaults against workers at the construction site of the Turin-Lyons high-speed railway line.

Recently, another populist/Jacobin politician, former prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, whose party is represented by a small faction in the Parliament, has allied with Grillo.

This faction, through friendly prosecutors in Palermo, has now initiated a campaign to blackmail President Giorgio Napolitano using illegal wiretaps, perhaps emboldened by polls that give Grillo's movement second place in an electoral race nationally, a couple of decimal points fewer than the Democratic Party, one of the two major parties in Italy. The wiretapping scandal, or "Watergate" of Napolitano has so far been prevented by the fact that Napolitano has moved for an injunction by the Constitutional Court, but if the Court should reject the injunction, the blackmail is on.

Napolitano was wiretapped in the context of an investigation led by the Palermo prosecutors of former Interior Minister Nicola Mancino, suspected of having made a deal with Mafiosi powers in exchange for ending Mafia bombings in several Italian cities. Mancino's telephone conversations with his old friend and fellow parliamentarian Napolitano were taped by prosecutors. The content of the conversations has neither been published, nor destroyed as the law prescribes in the case of the President, who can be prosecuted only for high treason.

It is suspected, however, that the contents of those conversations is so politically detrimental to Napolitano, that the Jacobin faction which Palermo prosecutors are part of, is using it as blackmail to secure some political favor (early elections?), or simply to publish them in order to rock the remaining republican institution, i.e., the Presidency, which—as opposed to the political class and Parliament—still enjoys a certain prestige among the population.

Even if such conversations have nothing to do with the Mafia, and are, instead, evidence of Napolitano's plot to favor EU technocrat Monti, the networks pushing for such exposure are worse than their targets. This

group calls for even more supranational "governance" and pushes de-industrialization, anti-growth, and green economy policies.

And, it wants to eliminate representative democracy.

Focusing on this growing political mob, author Michele Ciliberto wrote in the daily *L'Unità*, "They [the Jacobins—ed.] counterpose a web-based direct democracy to representative democracy, characterizing the latter as the origin of all evils." Direct democracy, Ciliberto wrote, "is structurally radical, hardliner, and ends naturally in despotism, because it erases the division of power, as the Classics explained to us."

But this is not just an Italian problem, Ciliberto notes, since the Pirates party in Germany is supporting "a radical view of direct democracy through the use of the Internet and a reduction of their representatives to the function of delegates, erasing also in this case the moment of mediation."

A neo-jacobin solution "can prevail" in Italy. "We are sitting on a volcano; we should become aware of it, once and for all."

British Coup Exposed

It was journalist Giovanni Fasanella, a veteran of anti-British "resistance," who blew the whistle on the dirty operation. In an article published in the weekly *Panorama* on Aug. 29, Fasanella wrote, based on his own sources, as well as hints offered in an article written by three journalists from the opposite camp, that those tapes contain conversations made during the transitional period from the Berlusconi to the Monti government. Such conversations would reveal an active role of Napolitano in steering the fall of Berlusconi, and the creation of the Monti government—a violation of Napolitano's constitutional power.

Moreover, they would contain derogatory judgments about both Silvio Berlusconi and his alter ego, populist Di Pietro.

Fasanella has blasted the authors of the wiretappings and blackmail, and defended the institution of the Presidency, but incredibly, the office of the Presidency was the first to react, accusing Fasanella himself of blackmail intentions. Suddenly, an overwhelming array of political, institutional, judicial, and media figures turned on the journalist who had dared to blow the whistle on the dirty operation!

The reasons for this are twofold:

