

Southern Europe Revolts Against Nazi Austerity

by Gretchen Small

Oct. 3—Lawfully, as the hyperinflationary European Stability Mechanism finally became operational, the European money spigots were thrown open wide (joined by Ben Bernanke's Federal Reserve), all semblance of economic and political stability is now crumbling across Europe. Europe's fourth largest economy, Spain, is being sucked into the same death-spiral into which Portugal, Ireland, and Greece were already driven by the British monarchy's euro project.

Bankrupt on every front, its physical economy imploding at Greek-like rates, the old Hapsburg feudal project of regional separatism has exploded, and Spain's very integrity as a nation is now being called into question.

Human beings being human, the outcome of this battle is in no way decided. Wave after wave of demonstrations, some days more, some days less, but in the tens of thousands each, swept Spain, Portugal, and Greece in September. Undeterred by police charges and rubber bullets, people are marching under banners like "Screw the Troika, We Want Our Lives Back," demanding the ouster of governments that care more for paying bankers' debts than saving human lives. The protests are building, with more ambitious demonstrations being called for October and November, and when Italians will join in.

This turmoil is not distinguished merely by its size and extent. Greeks and Portuguese are experienced at protesting; but the shattering of decades of political

apathy and pessimism which gripped Spain's suffering people is new. So, too, is the developing coordination among the resistance movements emerging across the countries of Southern Europe, around the recognition that they are not up against merely corrupt local politicians, but also against the financier logic that human life is expendable, financial paper is not, and the Nazi-like genocide which results from that logic in a general breakdown crisis.

Organizers from differing sectors of society of Southern Europe are discussing coordinated, cross-border actions to build what is increasingly understood as a single liberation struggle by all Southern Europe against a foreign occupying financial power, whose immediate face is the infamous "Troika" (the European Commission, European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund).

People are determined that parties and governments that do not defend the general welfare shall fall. That is all to the good, a potentially explosive factor ignored by an oligarchy blinded by the belief that smallness, corruption, and cowardice always trump the divine spark with which the Creator has endowed human beings.

Epitomizing the best of this potential is the stirring call "For a Europe of Nations-Peoples and of States," issued on Sept. 21 by octogenarian Greek freedom fighter Mikis Theodorakis (see *Documentation*). He identifies that the liberation struggle must aim at taking down the "new totalitarianism" of money, a weapon

“much more severe and more efficient than any form of police or military force.”

Free Europe from the Oligarchic System

The great weaknesses in the movement, thus far, remains the failure of organizers to put forward a *positive programmatic alternative* to the Troika’s Nazi policies: the economic measures required to secure human life. Recognition that the banking crisis must be resolved by adopting the Glass-Steagall principle of separating commercial and investment banks is growing, but the dead euro remains sacrosanct in most protestors’ minds (especially in Spain), who have yet to face up to the fact that their only hope is to think through the required return to national currencies, a fixed exchange rate system, and national banking.

The protests remain chained to the oligarchic system, by the dominance of monetarism and a “green” ideology which fanatically rejects the reality that physical economy is defined by scientific and technological development, generated by the willful development of human creativity. The delusion remains widespread that Europe’s problems can be solved by redistributing the abundance of “wealth” that ‘the rich’ have grabbed for themselves, through financial transaction taxes and taxing the wealthy. The fanatical greenie idea that Europe can rebuild itself powered by solar power and medieval windmills epitomizes the backward, peasant-like mentality which must be overthrown.

Recruiting a small core leadership around the necessary measures will determine the outcome of this fight. *EIR*’s “Emergency Program for ‘An Economic Miracle in Southern Europe, the Mediterranean Region and Northern Africa’” (subtitled “There *Is* Life After the Euro!”) elaborates how the development of that region, today dismissed as the burdensome PIIGS (Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece, and Spain), can generate the advance in productivity required to save all Europe. That manual for survival is circulating now in Greek, Span-



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A demonstration in Barcelona, Spain, in July against cuts in social spending. The escalating protests have not put forward a positive alternative, and remain confined within the oligarchical system, dominated by monetarism and the “green” ideology.

ish, Italian, and, most recently, the introductory overview by Helga Zepp-LaRouche in Portuguese, as well as English and German.

‘We’ve Seen This Movie Before’

The hyperinflationary monster has been unleashed by a combination of crazed money-printing with a forced-march takedown of the physical economy not seen since in Europe since the trains and steel industries were ripped out of Weimar Germany in the early 1920s. Official unemployment figures issued by Europe’s official statistics agency, Eurostat, on Oct. 1 reported that unemployment grew in the 17 countries chained to the euro by over 2.14 million people in just 12 months (August 2011 to August 2012), with the most stunning figures reported for the southern countries now in revolt.

One quarter of the labor force of both Spain and Greece is officially unemployed, Spain at 25.1%, Greece at 24.4%. Spain has suffered extraordinary unemployment for many years, but the increase in Greece over the last 12 months is stunning, from 17.2% to 24.4%. Portugal comes in third, at 15.9%, a jump from 12.7% in 12 months.

Keeping in mind that official statistics are systematically underestimated, consider the implications of youth unemployment in the three countries: Over half

of Greek and Spanish youth (Greece: 55.4%, Spain, 52.9%), and 35.9% of Portuguese youth, are denied work. Spanish labor unions have called mass demonstrations for Oct. 7 under the slogan, “Youth Without Work, a Society Without a Future.”

The scale of economic genocide being imposed in Greece is not lost on its fellow Southern European countries. On Sept. 29, addressing one of the biggest demonstrations in Portugal since the 1974 overthrow of the Salazar dictatorship, the Secretary General of the country’s largest trade union federation, the CGTP-IN, Arménio Carlos, reminded protestors that “a year ago the Prime Minister told us the solution to the country’s problems was the agreement with the Troika. . . . But we have already seen this movie in Greece; this is a road without an exit, pushing us toward the precipice!”

No matter, Spain’s Rajoy government continues to re-run that movie, in fast-forward. Between two major street demonstrations that week, the government announced its fifth austerity package of the year on Sept. 27, reducing the budget by another EU40 billion euros for 2013. The measures include:

- a 12% average cut in ministerial spending; in the case of the Health Ministry, it will be 15%, which will wreak havoc on national health services;
- a freeze in public sector pay for the third year in a row;
- seizing EU3 billion from the country’s pension reserve fund “to cover some Treasury needs,” in the words of Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaría; and, perhaps most significant of all,
- the creation of a new, “independent” authority to oversee all government finances, including those of the fractious regional governments, a measure “particularly welcomed” by European Economics Commissioner Olli Rehn.

As for Spain’s bankrupt 17 autonomous regions, some have gone hat-in-hand to the central government for bailout loans; some are threatening to secede from the nation; and some are doing both. The requests from just five regions for aid from the government’s Automatic Liquidity Fund total EU16 billion out of the EU18 billion in the Fund. Catalonia’s regional government has both requested EU5 billion from the Fund, and announced that it will hold a referendum on Nov. 25, calling for a split from the central government and “regional sovereignty”—a move which various civilian and military leaders nationally warn verges on “sedition” and “treason.”

No Right to Life

The latest announcement coming out of Portugal illustrates how the cold-blooded financial logic being imposed on Southern Europe is strictly the same as that applied in the concentration camps of Bank of England Gov. Montagu Norman’s beneficiary Adolf Hitler. In mid-September, Portugal’s National Ethics Council for the Life Sciences (CNECV) gave the green light for the Ministry of Health to ration medications issued by the public health service, in order to cut off those whose lives are deemed “too expensive” to maintain. Asked by the Ministry of Health to issue a formal opinion on the “ethics” of financing decisions for HIV retrovirals, cancer medications, and biological agents for rheumatoid illness, the CNECV was ready with its answer: “The world financial crisis” requires that the Health Ministry “can and should ration” treatment, on the basis of “cost-benefit analysis.”

The CNECV stated in its opinions that the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Troika clearly established the requirement of huge cutbacks in the public health service budget for medications. The Council specified that what is under discussion, is not simply restricting new expenses, but cutting services currently being provided; and that such decisions are not limited to the immediate treatment categories addressed, but are merely a “pilot program” for broader cuts to come.

The murderous implications of the decision were recognized by leading institutions. The spokesman for the Episcopal Conference of the Catholic Church in Portugal, Manuel Morjuao, asked: Do we now have “second- and third-class citizens, who can be gotten rid of?” The head of the Doctors’ Association, José Manuel Silva, called the CNECV opinion “inhuman.” “Are we going back to the Ceausescu head of state principle that the cheapest patient is the dead one?” he asked. CGTP-IN leader Carlos, addressing the Sept. 29 rally, called it “a true attack on the right to life in a situation in which many citizens no longer have money to buy medicines required for their survival.”

Yet Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho warned on Sept. 27 that any Portuguese who thought “adjustment” would last only a year, or a year and a half, was mistaken, and that what is coming will be worse.

They Are the Pigs; We Are the People

Explosions have just begun. The *Cumbre Social* coalition of Spain’s labor and civil society movements

called this week for demonstrations in the capital of every region in Spain on Oct. 7, and announced that they have decided to call a general strike in November. The date is not set yet, because they hope to coordinate their action with the general strike which the Portuguese CGTP (in the midst of organizing a march across the country from Oct. 5-13) is expected to call.

We are accompanied in our fight against rule by the Troika and the financial markets by our Portuguese, Greek, and Italian brothers; “They are the PIGS; we are Southern Europe, and without the South, there is no possible Europe,” organizers declared to the tens of thousands in the second major “Surround the Congress” demo in Madrid on Sept. 29. They posted a short “Call from the Countries of Southern Europe” in Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian on their website (<http://coordinadora25s.wordpress.com/>), which concludes: “The PIGS are rebelling; Screw the Troika. We don’t owe; we won’t pay.”

Documentation

Theodorakis: Free Europe From Totalitarianism!

Greek freedom fighter and composer Mikis Theodorakis, 84, issued a statement on Sept. 10, calling for a “liberation struggle” to free the nations of Europe from the new bankers’ totalitarianism. Extracts follow.

Today the main contrast is between all the peoples of Europe and the forces that represent and aim at the dominance of Global Governance, centered on a series of huge banks such as Rockefeller-Rothschild and Goldman Sachs, with auxiliaries such as Deutsche Bank and the European Central Bank, with the Bilderberg Club as a “government spokesman” (with Henry Kissinger as President) and its satellites the IMF, the World Trade Organization, and organs such as the Chicago School of Milton Friedman. . . .



Mikis Theodorakis says that the control of Greece by foreign banks and governments means that resistance “must take the form of a liberation struggle.”

The aim of this new totalitarianism is globalization, which means the building of a new society of an unknown type on the ruins of nations and peoples’ homelands, by creating a new type of citizen, subjugated and obedient to the plans and aspirations of Global Governance, who will be controlled and directed by, and will serve the interests of, the international trust banks.

Today’s politicians of the European states are divided into two sections: those who are aware of the new reality and consciously are serving the forces of Global Governance, and those who ignore the new reality and cooperate, even as opposition, within the political process of the first, the conscious servants of the new totalitarianism. So the current political powers of all parties, right, centrist, leftist, green, etc., are all within the same political power train, running on the rails that the Global Governance controls and which lead to the death of Nations-Peoples. . . .

The current Parliaments, which are currently under the control of the IMF and European banks, have changed into organs of the new totalitarianism, so there is no possibility of resistance through these power systems. . . .

The experience in my country, from the presence of the Troika during the last two and a half years, leads us to conclude that the control of the economy by foreign governments poses conditions of substantial foreign occupation. For this reason, the resistance of the people must take the form of a *liberation struggle*. Our weapon is the active resistance of a truly united nation. . . .

When a nation does not mobilize all its powers, without exception, against the looting forces of globalization, it is lost.

After all, an attack with money as a weapon is much more severe and more efficient than any form of police or military force, because it is an attack on the citizens as a whole. Not only on the integrity of their bodies but also of their minds and souls. . . .

The creation of a united front of opposition from the peoples of Europe would naturally lead to the total defeat of the forces of destructive invasion and the creation of a Europe of peoples, peace, and progress, whose power and influence would be so large that it could play a leading role on the international level.