
II. Jaques Cheminade for President of France

JACQUES CHEMINADE

LaRouche Associate Is Candidate For President of France

EIR editor Tony Papert interviewed Odile Mojon, Jacques Cheminade's campaign manager, on April 14.

Tony Papert: Who is Jacques Cheminade?

Odile Mojon: Jacques Cheminade is a former French official who happened to be assigned in the 1970s to New York City, where he met Lyndon LaRouche, and he shared with Lyndon LaRouche a very staunch dedication to justice: Economic justice, social justice, political justice, and I would add, also, cultural justice.

And from that point, he started to defend these ideas in France, in the same way that Lyndon LaRouche did in the United States.

Papert: He's run for President of France before—can you tell us about his previous campaigns for President?

Mojon: Yes, actually, there were three campaigns, and we tried twice in between, in 2002 and 2007, to qualify him as a candidate, but in these cases it didn't work. So, it's the third time that he's run. The first was in 1995, the second in 2012, and this year. And what was characteristic was that the first time, the opposition was extremely violent, but Cheminade was remembered by those who really interest themselves in politics, as the man who had told them that we were heading for a crisis—that a very big crisis was coming. So he is remembered for that.

Then in 2012, this was also a very difficult cam-



Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade being interviewed in Clichy, Paris, France.

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paign, but he was able to bring in certain other questions, including restoration of Glass-Steagall—the necessity to separate commercial from investment banks. Also, the need for big infrastructure projects, including projects in space—many journalists tried to ridicule him on the question of space exploration, but it's very funny, because now, in the mean time, *Curiosity* has landed on Mars and other successes have occurred in space exploration. And the people who have tried to ridicule Cheminade now appear ridiculous—a very funny thing. And it's still a debate today, but much less,

because in a certain way, Cheminade won on this.

Sure, he was ridiculed, but at the same time, those people who were really thinking in depth, were obliged to recognize that he was right. That's why we have many people who think Jacques Cheminade is a visionary—a man who has a vision, who is not acting from petty calculations, or mere electoral considerations in the Presidential election—but a man who has a vision.

No to the Euro, No to Deschooling

Papert: Could you say more about Jacques Cheminade's plans for France, and his platform?

Mojon: Three things are very important on the negative side, so to speak: to get out of the euro, the European Union, and NATO. And on the political side, how do we rebuild the economy. Which means once we are out of the euro, once we are out of the European Union, we have to make sure that we have banking separation, and that money flows again into the real economy, namely great projects. But to ensure that, we primarily need to have first a national bank. We need to have control of the emission of currency, and a national banking institution which provides credit and ensures that it goes into specific programs.

The motto of his campaign is very simple: "Let's liberate ourselves from the financial occupation; let's get out of the cultural occupation." And that question of culture is also a very, very important aspect of his campaign, and we strongly insist on the question of culture, and also education, because in France right now, people are terribly worried about the education being given to their children. There is a deep debate, because the schools have almost been destroyed. Perhaps I wouldn't go quite that far, but what has been going on for years and years, is an attempt to really destroy the schools step by step, and now it has reached a very, very worrying situation; what has been going on is very worrying. This question of education is key.

Papert: And what does he say about education positively?

Mojon: First, we have to reinstate an education which is based on knowledge. Beginning in primary school, it is very important that children learn how to speak and to write. It seems obvious. But we have reached such a point that you have children in school who have difficulty in writing. They don't know how to

write. Today in France, when children are ten years old, when they go on to high school, 25% are not able to express themselves properly in writing, or to speak properly. Often they don't have the vocabulary to be able to express ideas. It is a huge problem, because these children are the ones who will have to take charge of the country later—they will be the generation to take charge.

Occupied France Is not France

Papert: What is France's role in the world, in Jacques' view, or what should be France's role in the world?

Mojon: France has to become France again. Because when France is loyal to herself, then she is able to do positive things in the world. This means again the question of culture, and it means the question of political will. Today this political will does not exist, because France is only a prisoner of this financiers' occupation. Of course, in this new world, France is a middle-sized country, but here France has to play its role in supporting the deterrent of the weak against the strong. This is very important. But if we want to have this deterrent, it must be on principle. We cannot forget this principle, the republican principle, because France is a republic. And this is also a very strong debate now in France, actually. But if you forget that, then you cannot play this role. Basically, that's what Jacques Cheminade is trying to bring into the Presidential campaign, and that's why there are a lot of people who are listening to him.

I must add that he has been fighting very much on the question of the financial occupation, which is also a huge debate here. Because people are starting to understand that if they want to be free, if they want to be able to play a positive role in the world, they have to free themselves from this occupation.

Cheminade in Lebanon

Papert: Jacques just recently took a trip to Lebanon and met with President Michel Aoun.

Mojon: I see this trip as extremely important, because of course there is a long history between Lebanon and France. It's also important because there is so much disinformation concerning all the crises in the Middle East, that it was very, very important to let the people of France know what the real situation is there, and to remind them of it. Another question very much debated in France is the question of immigration. And it's very

important for people to understand that if you take the case of Lebanon, it's a tiny country, where 25% or even more are refugees, mostly from Syria and Palestine. It's very important to face the role of France—the very unfortunate role—in being complicit in what has been going on in the Middle East.

And I think it's also very important for the Lebanese people living in France, or Franco-Lebanese people, that there is someone saying that it is impossible to think there is going to be peace if there is no mutual economic development. This is something which has been widely discussed.



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Interview with Jacques Cheminade during a visit to farm of a rural cooperative in the Retz countryside.

Surprise in the Televised Debate

Papert: Jacques was in the national television debate as one of the eleven candidates last week. What can you tell us about that debate?

Mojon: It was very important to have that debate. It was a first. You have to understand—now, there are basically two Presidential “elections” in France, because, on the one side, you have five candidates who have been labelled the big candidates, or the major candidates. And you have six other candidates, who have been labelled the minor candidates—they are the outsiders. It's incredible, because you have a huge discrepancy in treatment between the two “elections,” so to speak. This debate was very important, because it brought all the candidates together before all the citizens, and broke this separation between two groups of Presidential campaigns. And what everyone noticed was that the “minor” Presidential candidates were indeed much more interesting than the other ones. With some differences, of course.

It was a kind of electric shock. It was very interesting. For Jacques, there was one segment in which he addressed Emmanuel Macron, who was one of these “major” candidates, and Marine Le Pen, another. We made a little video which garnered a great many view-

ers. He said, “You guys, you pretend to be this, and you pretend to be that—but the truth is that both of you—you are under the domination of these financial interests.”

A second debate was supposed to take place the following Thursday, and the “major” candidates actually conspired to prevent it from happening, because they were so afraid that the “minor” candidates could put them at risk. It was to take place April 20 on France2 public television, but they had to change their plans because they were so afraid of another confrontation with the “minor” candidates. That says a lot about how weak they are—in reality they only represent a caste, they are not free people. And the population knows it, but they are being trapped with the idea that they must not “waste their vote.”

Today, a new poll showed two of those major candidates were at an equal 22%, and all the rest were very close to that. There is no one who is clearly ahead. They are freaking out. With only nine days to go before the election, one-third of the electorate has not decided how they'll vote. It's unprecedented. And, you have many people saying they won't vote at all, even though the Presidential election is the main election, the most important election in France.