

Doug Schoen Boosts Bloomberg Candidacy: An American Mussolini

by Anita Gallagher

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "former" pollster Doug Schoen, in his just-released book *Declaring Independence: The Beginning of the End of the Two-Party System*, depicts a "brave new world" of an American Presidency reduced to an unstable "coalition government," put into power through unprecedented electoral chaos, to make savage cuts in American living standards on the level of the fascist economic and social policies of Hitler and Mussolini. Schoen has penned a call for an American Mussolini—a man "above the parties" who can impose the necessary level of killer cuts in health care (emphatically, end-of-life care) and Social Security—while avoiding so much as rhetoric, let alone action, aimed at the financial interests behind him who have wrecked the U.S. economy.

American statesman Lyndon LaRouche commented Feb. 6, that behind the scenarios for "electing Bloomberg" like the one Schoen lays out, lie coup d'état methods, far more likely to be used. The point, LaRouche says, is that the financiers behind Bloomberg "are playing for keeps."

The most conspicuous omission of Schoen's book, is any discussion of Franklin Roosevelt's solutions to a milder, but similar economic crisis in 1933. Had that crisis not been solved by FDR's use of the power of government for the general welfare, like massive job creation by building infrastructure, there could have been only one outcome: a fascist dictator in the United States. Schoen's 220-page-long demand for shared sacrifice, balancing the budget, and cutting entitlements, lies, by suppressing the fact that Roosevelt's successful approach to the economy, utilized today, combined with a "New Bretton Woods" agreement with Russia, India, China and other nations, would result in stunning economic progress worldwide. But, such technological progress and the image of man it engenders, is precisely the problem for the financiers like Felix Rohatyn and George Shultz who are behind a fascist option. This time it is for keeps, and they could lose their power forever.

For them: Better to reign in Hell, than serve in heaven.

Embrace the Killer Third Rail!

No Democrat, or even Republican, will take on the "difficult" issues of today, like "the problem of an aging population," Schoen says. Without acknowledging it, Schoen harkens back to Hitler's elimination of "lives not worthy to be

lived," ranting: "End of life medical care is 10-12 percent of the total healthcare budget, and 27 percent of the Medicare budget." In fact, it is such increases in longevity which make an expanding population possible, and are characteristic of a successful society, which can educate its youth for a longer time, knowing that their working lives will be long enough to recoup the educational investment, through new discoveries and new applications. The capacity for creative discovery is what separates human beings from animals.

Likewise, Schoen says, "We cannot sustain the social security entitlement." His independent candidate must "raise the minimum benefits age," increase the pay-in rate on wages," or "set up private accounts"—more money to flow into Wall Street's sewer of losses! Military and civil service pensions must also be chopped down.

Schoen "outs" others who support reducing the already low Social Security payments, including Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution, who, Schoen says, believes that "seemingly unpalatable solutions should be part of a bipartisan strategy that demands sacrifice from all," and Maine's former independent Gov. Angus King, who believes, "The public ... understands the necessity of sacrifice," and, of course, self-confessed Hitler admirer Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, who says, "Voters admire you when you are willing to talk about difficult issues."

Destroy the U.S. 'Strong Presidency'

"In America, we've never countenanced the notion of a coalition government, but a third party candidate could force such a situation, positioning him or her as a kingmaker" in the November 2008 election, Schoen says. Schoen lays out the scenarios which would make the United States as unstable as the European parliamentary systems. "If," Schoen says, "an independent candidate wins a plurality, but not a majority of electoral votes, he could bargain with one of the two major parties to create, in effect, a coalition government."

Since there would be three candidates for President, an independent candidate could win a state's electoral votes with 34% of the popular vote, instead of the 51% needed in a two-way race. Electoral College votes are awarded on a winner-take-all basis in 47 states.

Even if the independent candidate won only a few big states, like California and New York, and received 60-70 electoral votes, he could prevent either of the two major parties from getting the 270 electoral votes needed to win (recall the close 2000 and 2004 elections). Schoen says, "Again, the independent could bargain with one of the parties to create a coalition in which the independent would be the junior partner. ... Either scenario could result in America's first-ever coalition, power-sharing government, with the independent as either the junior or senior partner in the coalition." The same kind of deal-making could occur if the election were thrown into the House of Representatives or the Senate, Schoen adds.