

Editorial

At Duino Castle

The word "*Mittleuropa*" probably means as little to the ordinary European as it does to most Americans. Nonetheless, around the idea can be found hovering some of the slimiest of old and new Nazi forces in the continent's politics, as well as left-wing terrorists, and also all sorts of respectable figures. For its own reasons, the Soviet Union has also taken an interest in nurturing *Mittleuropa*.

Simply put, *Mittleuropa* is the feudal dream of empire in Central Europe: nationalities instead of nation-states, serfs instead of citizens. For some contemporary and would-be oligarchs, a version of the Holy Roman Empire is the point of nostalgic reference. Others speak of "Hitler without the mistakes."

The scion of the Hapsburgs, Otto, prefers a blend of environmentalism and systems analysis known as "*PanEuropa*," which he reigns over in the Pan-European Union. Other variants include Bertrand Russell's World Federalism and Michael Ledeen's "universal fascism."

Lest anyone dismiss these creatures as mere blue-blooded dingbats, we call their attention to the pompous communiqués and terrorist attacks of numerous ethnic separatist-liberationist groups (most recently Armenian extremists) that have forced their way into the newspaper headlines. The racialist revolutionaries are the vehicles of these oligarchs for the destruction of nation-states and republican culture.

One of their princes, Raimondo Torre e Tasso, will host an international gathering of his colleagues and hirelings, entitled "The European Significance of *Mittleuropa*—*Mittleuropa* Past and Present," in his castle at Duino in Trieste, on Sept. 19-21. Torre e Tasso is the senior Italian branch of the family whose name is Thurn und Taxis in Germany, from whence they ran the postal and intelligence service of the Hapsburg emperors.

Visitors to the Duino stables will include Aristotelian philosopher Karl Popper, former French premier Raymond Barre, and Victor Weisskopf, a founder of the Pugwash East-West scientists' conferences which for the past 25 years have been the main channel of KGB influence over U.S. defense policy. The Duino festivities will follow by a month this year's Pugwash

conference, held nearby in the old oligarchs' haven of Venice. Prince Raimondo himself is associated with the CERN institute of Geneva, a center of Soviet scientific espionage.

Look at a map of "Europe of the Regions," as seen through a *Mittleuropa* eye: Italy, to take the most striking case, has disappeared. Instead you have the resurrected Most Serene Republic of Venice, Alto Adige (South Tyrol), independent Trieste, and of course independent Sicily (or has Sicily become a colony of Libya?). Says a representative of the Liga Veneta, which wants independence for the Veneto region in which Venice is located, and elected one senator and one deputy to the Italian legislature last month: "We are like Catalonia, Wales, and Lithuania!"

Now look at the same map through the eyes of Yuri Andropov. Very interesting. . . . No more Western Europe. . . . No more NATO—at least not the kind you could launch Pershing missiles from.

Now go back and do a cross-gridding of the drugs and arms trade East and West, international terrorism left and right, ethnic separatist "revolutionary" outfits, and organizations like the ones associated with the proceedings at Prince Raimondo's castle: the Centre Europeéne de la Culture, the Foundation Coundenhove-Kalergi, and the United Collegium of Torre e Tasso and Prince Philip of the United Kingdom. Very interesting.

The resurgence of *Mittleuropa* has produced another unexpected traveler on the East-West highway: Bavarian governor Franz-Josef Strauss, who has recently visited Czechoslovakia, Poland, and East Germany, for whom he had just arranged a billion-deutschmark credit line. Strauss is a veteran ultra-conservative who used to say that the future of Western Europe lay with the United States. The script he is following was laid out by Lord Weidenfeld, now of Kissinger Associates, in a 1965 book, *The Grand Design: A Strategy for German Reunification*, never published in West Germany, which is devoted to attacking the concept of the nation-state. A reunified—and neutralized—Germany would be perfectly consistent with *Mittleuropa*. Perhaps now Strauss has such ambitions.

Professor Andropov certainly does.