

## British demand dictatorship to manage financial crisis

by Mark Burdman

Among leading elements of the British oligarchy, it is no secret that the global financial system that has existed over the past decades, and on which British influence over international events is largely based, is collapsing. The past months have seen the crash of Barings Bank, the progressive downfall of Lloyd's insurance and Warburg merchant bank, and the discrediting of the Bank of England. Meanwhile, other storm-clouds are appearing. Amid the onrushing calamity, certain British spokesmen are now openly calling for the imposition of dictatorships across the western world, in order to crush resistance to the fascist austerity that they perceive as necessary, and to maintain their power amidst the process of disintegration.

On May 21, Sir Peregrine Worsthorpe, senior commentator at the London *Sunday Telegraph*, called for a "form of authoritarian politics" that would allow for "cruel belt-tightening [and] bitter medicines to be forced down the throats of body politics." The location and author are both most appropriate. The weekly is the mouthpiece of the Toronto, Canada-based Hollinger Corp., the media conglomerate owned by Canadian tycoon Conrad Black that has orchestrated the international efforts of the past 18 months to bring down President Bill Clinton and to destabilize the U.S. Presidency.

For Worsthorpe, advocacy of dictatorship runs in the family. His stepfather, the late Sir Montagu Norman, was the Bank of England chief who was instrumental in installing Adolf Hitler in power in Germany.

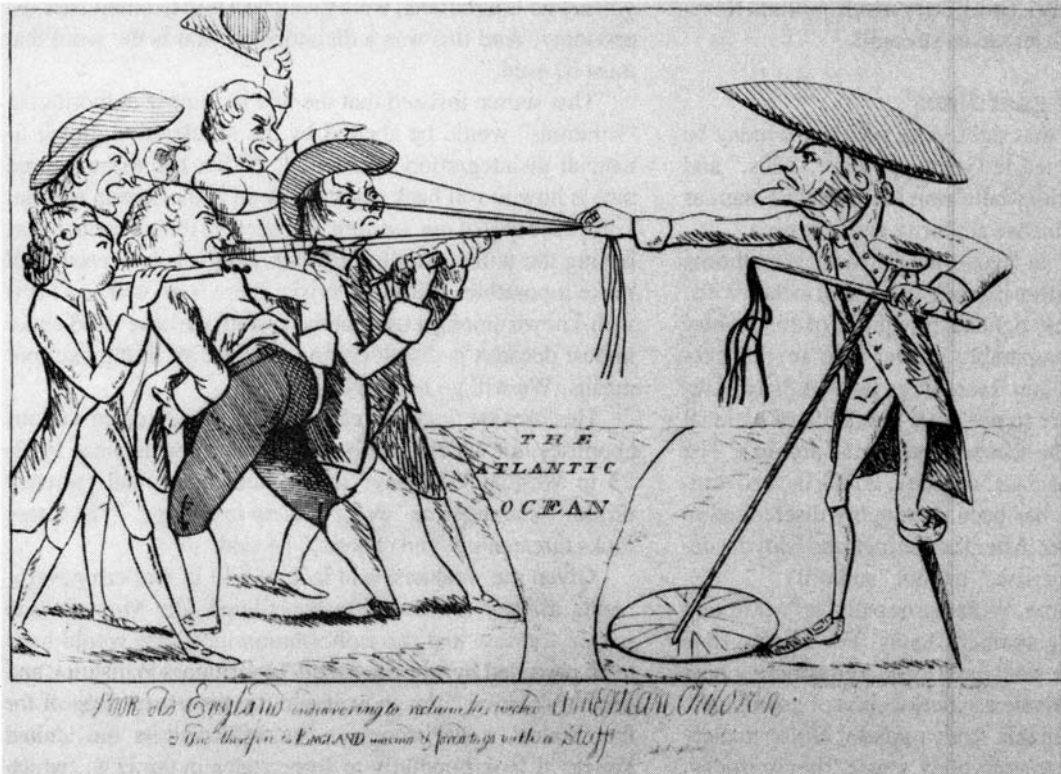
Worsthorpe's support for dictatorship reflects the debates going on in the upper echelons of the Club of the Isles, the secretive oligarchical grouping headed by Britain's Prince Philip. The "necessity" for authoritarian regimes is also a theme being pushed by the Mont Pelerin Society, the conceptual command-center for "liberal free market" fanatics. Set

up in 1947 with the sponsorship of Britain's Winston Churchill and his coterie, the society promotes the ideas of the late Friedrich von Hayek of Austria. It and its U.S. clones (Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, etc.) provide the notions that later pop out of the mouths of such knaves as U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), and their "Conservative Revolution" cohorts.

Especially since their last semi-annual meeting in Cannes, France last year, the Mont Pelerinites have been discussing what they think to be the central "paradox" of current times, what they euphemistically refer to as the "dilemma of democracy": that radical measures to "roll back the state" and destroy vital state-supported infrastructure projects and social services, will require authoritarian means to implement. In other words, these loudmouthed advocates of "freedom" are the world's worst fascists! Mont Pelerin sources acknowledge that this issue has become all the more urgent, in view of the accelerating disintegration of the financial and political systems that have been hegemonic over the past decades.

### 'Authoritarian guts' needed

Worsthorpe's May 21 column took the stylistic form of a dialogue with his British co-thinker Lord William Rees-Mogg, the former editor of the London *Times* who is a mouthpiece for the Club of the Isles and one of the most important media orchestrators of the campaign to bring down President Clinton. In a piece entitled "The Right-Wing Path to Oppression," Worsthorpe favorably cited Rees-Mogg's recent articles advocating giant cuts in public expenditure and radical moves to roll back the state, and praised Gingrich for pushing such policies in the United States. But Worsthorpe criticized



This 1777 cartoon depicts “poor old England endeavoring to reclaim wicked American children.” The British oligarchy has never given up its desire to bring the upstart Americans to heel; today, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, who has helped orchestrate the assault on President Clinton, calls for “authoritarian politics” to force through austerity in the United States and other nations.

Rees-Mogg for not explicitly acknowledging that such measures would require an “authoritarian” regime. Worsthorne could not hide his sympathy for dictatorship, but attributed these ideas to Rees-Mogg, as a means of putting the matter of authoritarianism on the agenda, without seeming to be the author of the proposal.

Worsthorne is not mistaken in stating that Rees-Mogg’s hidden agenda is to impose dictatorships throughout western societies; that is exactly Rees-Mogg’s intent. In a Jan. 5 *Times* piece entitled “It’s the Elite Who Matter,” he called for phasing out universal public education, as no longer required for an emerging “information” society, in which 95% of the population would be ruled by an “elite class” of 5%, and in which Britain would reign supreme by its capabilities in “finances” and “tax havens.” Indeed, such a neo-feudalist society would require dictatorial forms of rule, to crush the opposition that would inevitably erupt.

Worsthorne began his May 21 article: “People who argue—and some of the wisest in the land, like William Rees-Mogg, most convincingly do—that the only future for this country, and for the Western world as a whole, is to take a veritable axe to the social services, not excluding those aimed at ameliorating the material condition of the underclass, never seem to spell out . . . the political price, in terms of loss of freedom, that might have to be paid for such economic realism. For while it is certainly true that rigorous and sometimes cruel belt-tightening—particularly for the relatively

defenseless—will be required . . . it is also true that today’s democratic body politics are unlikely to be able to swallow such bitter medicine without a desperate struggle. Just how desperate, nobody can be sure. But the possibility cannot be ruled out that the bitter medicines will have to be *forced* down the throat of body politics” (emphasis in original).

He went on: “Those who argue that the politics of the next decades, truly ‘modern’ politics, must not flinch from taking an axe to the welfare state, should also, if they are honest, go on to warn that these truly modern politics may also have to take an axe to many of our democratic freedoms.” In other words, this may mean “having to fall back on a form of authoritarian politics.” In the face of radical policies of “liberalization” and “privatization,” a “frightened electoral majority” will emerge, that will *not* want these policies implemented in a “democratic” way that would ensure the rights of minorities who would be thrown on the scrap heap. Instead, it will demand a regime with “the authoritarian guts to ride roughshod over these minorities.”

For Britain, an authoritarian regime “tough-minded enough to enforce the necessarily painful reforms through” would be “the lesser evil” compared to other alternatives, Worsthorne said. “Better, therefore, to get the misery over now, rather than postpone the evil day, by which time the country would have become insolvent, resulting in even higher levels of unemployment and even more social demoralization. Since the pain has to be suffered some time . . .

why not get it over quickly? This is very much William Rees-Mogg's argument, and I can see its strength."

### **'A superior class of guardians'**

Worsthorne advised that right-wing politicians today be "mindful of what happened in Germany in the 1930s," and praised his stepfather, Hitler-admiring Montagu Norman, as "a towering figure of immense authority and charisma."

The central "defect" in Rees-Mogg's case, Worsthorne indicated, is that the situation is *much worse* than in the 1930s. For one, "the degree of belt-tightening required of this country . . . is going to be incomparably greater than anything required in the 1930s. William Rees-Mogg talks blithely of reducing public expenditure to not more than 25% of national income." This ties into the second, and related problem: The "political and managerial class" of today, unlike the "governing class" of the 1930s, has been thoroughly discredited in the eyes of the population. After the Barings and Lloyd's debacles, there is still "expertise," but not "authority."

To resolve this dilemma, Worsthorne calls for "a different class of ruler to anything available today. For the first time for 50 years or more, we shall have to start considering how to educate, train and motivate a superior class of guardians." What will then emerge, in this "truly modern, elitist" society of the future, "will not be to everybody's taste," he concludes.

### **'Roll back the state by an authoritarian regime'**

Worsthorne's argument was enthusiastically greeted by a chief Mont Pelerin Society ideologue of Central European origin. In a May 23 discussion, he asserted, "This is a well-known argument. Democracies foster weaker governments, and there is no majority for measures to roll back the state. This introduces the paradox, of needing some kind of strong government, precisely to roll back the state. We have definitely been discussing this idea, in recent times, in the Mont Pelerin Society. . . . It is the problem of the 'dilemma of democracy.' Worsthorne is basically right, in seeing authoritarianism as needed. The problem is to figure out exactly what we mean by the word 'authoritarianism.'" He praised Worsthorne's recommendation that a "class of guardians" be nurtured that could enact "dictatorial powers" for dismantling the current state structures.

The source cited the recent writings of Anthony de Jasay, a Mont Pelerin propagandist who authored a piece entitled "For an Autocracy Which Is Not Interventionist." He said, "We have to find a way to have an authoritarianism, which keeps out of economic life, and sticks to the classical role of the state, for protection and security, and nothing else." A first-approximation model of what were necessary, has historically been provided by Chile's General Pinochet, with his "Chicago Boys" group of economic "liberalizers": "Pinochet understood, as a military man, that his role was purely that, to keep order, and so on. The Chicago Boys, who I can assure

you are no libertarians, were given free rein to administer the economy. And this was a dictatorship; that is the word that must be used."

This source insisted that the will to impose authoritarian "solutions" would be abetted by the accelerating global financial disintegration. He stated: "What has to be figured out, is how to roll back the state by an authoritarian regime. I don't see any of our western societies, in their current form, having the will to do this. *Probably only a deep crisis* will make it possible. Without a crisis, there is no will. . . . It is well-known amongst us, that the system we have lived under in past decades is disintegrating. We are all living over our means. We will go into crisis."

He foresaw financial catastrophes occurring in various countries, for which there has been no precedent since 1922-23 in Weimar Germany, with indebtedness and currency turmoil "endangering" every society in Europe. "The future looks threatening, and chaotic," he said.

Given the weakness and lack of will in western governments as they are currently constituted, the Mont Pelerin source foresaw that the authoritarian measures would have to be preceded by what he called "drastic regionalization and decentralization." As an example, he expressed support for the "states' rights"-secessionism offensive in the United States. "I look hopefully to some states in the U.S., which are capable of taking the actions on their own. Remember, the United States was once conceived as a confederation of sovereign states," he said.

This, of course, is a paean to the pre-U.S. Constitution "Articles of Confederation." Had they prevailed, the new nation would never have survived. This is exactly what the Mont Pelerinites would prefer.

### **Take away the right to vote!**

One proposal being circulated by this Mont Pelerin source, which shows how committed such creatures are to "freedom," is that the right to vote should be *taken away* from anybody who is receiving state monies, whether it be pensioners, the poor, professors at state universities, public workers, or others.

He complained: "Our democracies are self-destructive. The way they operate, destroys the free market, which thereby destroys the preconditions for democracy itself. There is no viable system possible based on an unqualified franchise. If the majority is dependent on state money to survive, how can you expect them to support rolling back the state? My recommendation, is that there be no active voting rights for people whose existence is dependent on tax monies. Public service workers, for example, should not have voting rights, because it's obvious how they will vote on such concerns. The same for professors on the state payroll."

This is yet another indication of what the future holds for 95% of humanity, under the policies of the British oligarchs and their Mont Pelerin Society vultures.