

# George Soros under fire: Is the end near for the new Sir Francis Drake?

by Umberto Pascali

Francis Drake was one of the bloodiest pirates of the 16th century, who specialized in robbing the Spanish galleons that were transporting gold from the Americas. The pirate's murderous abilities did not go unnoticed. Soon he became an *official* asset of the British Crown, on behalf of which he killed and stole with the greatest efficiency. The Queen knighted him: He was now *Sir Francis Drake, a pirate in Her Majesty's service!*

Today, "Francis Drake" is the common nickname given to the international speculator George Soros. Soros doesn't cruise the Atlantic with the "skull and bones," but he certainly does scavenge the waters of the "free market" to find the weak corporation or the undefended country to be financially assaulted: the wealth accumulated by years of citizens' labor, stolen in a few hours of a speculative orgy. The victim country, after having been "opened," is left at the mercy of the usurers of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with whom Soros is "in tune," as the Italian press put it recently.

For example, many of the former Soviet bloc countries commandeered by the new Drake—and by his associate Jeffrey Sachs's shock therapy—have ended up in abject misery, far worse than what they experienced under communism.

However, the speculative "rape" is only a part of the global scheme. Soros, it seems, is a "philanthropist"; actually, in 1996 he was nominated by *Fortune* magazine as "most generous philanthropist" of the year, with total disbursements of \$350 million. Besides the money invested in "charitable" activities directly consistent with the British oligarchy's agenda—such as drug legalization and euthanasia—the army of men and women whom Soros recruits in the targeted countries, are instructed to "open the society," i.e., to weaken the nation's moral, religious, and political resistance to looting. "Open Society" is the name of Soros's main philanthropic organization.

One infinitesimal part of Soros's speculative gain (in 1992, Italy alone lost 40,000 billion lira during the Soros blitzkrieg) is re-invested to create a network of politicians, intellectuals, journalists, and teachers in each country. Normally these are bright young people, living in countries that are already impoverished, especially in the former communist

countries. Soros's operatives make available scholarships, computers, international connections, propaganda, seed money for magazines and newspapers, radio and TV stations, for the creation of political entities or factions, for conferences, cultural initiatives, and so on. Then, there are—according to many sources—the "former" communists. The groups sponsored by Soros reportedly have swallowed chunks of the communist leadership, cleaned them up, and set them loose against the governments that came to power in the wake of the communist regimes.

## A coordinated counterattack?

Until now, this magazine and the organizations linked to Lyndon LaRouche have constituted the only serious resistance to Soros's games. But now, we are witnessing a series of determined counterattacks by many of the victims who had previously been paralyzed by fear.

This is a growing attack against both Soros's financial piracy and his assault against national sovereignty. It could be the beginning of a generalized rebellion against the whole British apparatus that has been deployed—since the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall—to prevent the natural process of collaboration and mutual development between East and West, North and South.

The main points of anti-Soros counterattack are 1) Italy, where the investigations prompted by the LaRouche movement have been relaunched; 2) Croatia, where President Franjo Tudjman denounced the "state within the state" created by Soros, and where some of Soros's top operatives have been indicted and arrested; 3) the United States, where White House anti-drug policy adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey and Drug Enforcement Administration Director Thomas Constantine have pointed their guns upon the drug-legalization campaign that is being pushed and financed by Soros. According to sources, other countries and institutions are watching carefully and could step into the ring any moment now.

## Italy: probes reopened

"Soros Under Investigation: Attacked the Lira," headlined the daily *Corriere della Sera* on Dec. 24. "Intelligence Agencies Deployed Against Financial Speculation," echoed



*George Soros receives an honorary degree from the University of Bologna, Italy, Oct. 30, 1995. At the press conference that followed, Soros was denounced as a "financial pirate" by associates of Lyndon LaRouche. Today, Soros is under investigation for crimes committed in several countries, and may be heading for jail.*

*Il Giornale*, which ran a picture of a sanitation worker at the Milan stock exchange, with the caption: "The secret services will try to clean up the stock market, eliminating those who 'play dirty.'"

The investigations of Soros, as *EIR* readers know, were triggered by a legal brief presented by the Italian organization close to LaRouche, the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity, in 1995. Now, the courts in Rome and other cities have re-launched the investigations, while both the SISMI and SISDE (Italy's "CIA" and "FBI") have had their mandate broadened to include "the dynamics of the international markets." The Interior Ministry has just created a new entry in the list of the crimes that SISDE is called upon to investigate and combat: "Threats to economic stability."

Writes *Corriere's* Flavio Haver, referring to Roman Prosecutor Cesare Martellino: "The investigation has just started, but the results could be explosive, and the name of the individual being officially investigated gives an idea of how delicate this investigation is: The name is George Soros. . . . The crime is stockjobbing. . . . It concerns the attack on the lira in 1992: 40,000 billion lira spent by the Bank of Italy in the attempt to defend the lira from foreign speculators. . . . It is possible that besides Soros, other 'big wigs' will join the list of those under investigation."

The article does not report it, but, as this magazine has underlined, Soros's killer speculation against the lira was preceded, on June 2 of that year, by the infamous meeting of top Italian economic and financial representatives and their British counterparts onboard the royal yacht *Britannia*. The

subject of the confidential talks: the privatization and gutting of the Italian public-owned corporations.

On Dec. 23, *Corriere* had listed, in a feature on "The Prime Minister and the Speculator," the answers of an unusually subhead Soros to questions concerning his relationship to Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi. Prodi's name had originally been given to Soros by Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard University, who had already collaborated with Soros in "opening" Poland to the shock therapy of the World Bank and the IMF. In 1988, Soros had put together a financial commando force to "open" Russia.

Soros told *Corriere* that he hired—besides Prodi—members of the World Bank and IMF circles, such as Stanley Fisher and David Minch; Harvard's Larry Summers; the father of a Spanish privatization scheme, Guillermo de la Dehesa; the Brookings Institution's Ed Hewett; Gur Ofer of Jerusalem University; and the Hungarian Marlon Tardos. The purpose of the mission was to get in contact with Russian economists Leonid Abalkin and Stanislav Shatalin, to make sure that the Russian economy was "liberalized" in the right way.

The Italian newspaper mentions strong suspicions that the Soros clan sponsored the rise of Prodi to become prime minister. On Oct. 30, 1995, in the middle of the electoral campaign that placed him in office, in a ceremony staged by one of Prodi's closest collaborators, Soros received an honorary degree from the Economics Department of the University of Bologna (see photo). The press conference that followed became famous, when the Civil Rights Movement

Solidarity denounced the “financial pirate Soros” and Prodi, demanding that Soros be jailed for his slaughter of the lira.

That event sparked the imagination of many people. In February 1996, a financial expert mentioned the Bologna ceremony in a review of a scenario novel. In what looked like a warning shot across the bows, Soros, in the book, was not just verbally denounced, but was arrested by a previously unknown special team of the secret service operatives assigned to safeguard Italy’s “economic security,” and was transported by force, as Benito Mussolini had been, to the isolated Appenine Mountains resort of Campo Imperatore.

### Croatia: Tudjman speaks out

The events in Italy were preceded by a “charge” launched by President Tudjman of Croatia on Dec. 7. “It is certain that the public, and even ministers of the government, do not even have knowledge about all this,” he said, but the aim of Soros’s organizations is “to create favorable circumstances for the subversion of the present authority and situation in Croatia, to gain control over all spheres of life. They intend to focus their energies and influence on the media and the world of culture.”

Tudjman was talking to the leadership of his party, the HDZ, and the speech was broadcast in full by Croatian TV. Though the President had denounced Soros in the past, this time it was an all-out attack, that went beyond Croatia, or domestic considerations, or any judgment concerning the role and ideology of Franjo Tudjman. There were conjectures that Tudjman’s serious health problems had prompted him to “speak up.” But, whatever the motivation, the offensive launched by Croatia gives many victimized countries a unique opportunity.

Observers in London noticed with deep apprehension that, even more astonishing than the speech, was the lack of “any real defense of Soros by the United States.”

Instead, a release from the U.S. Information Agency (i.e., the State Department) on Dec. 11 attributed a whopping 81% popularity to Tudjman. British officials howled their paranoia about a secret “deal”: “The timing is weird. What is the USIA doing? You had Tudjman criticizing every kind of foreign influence, and then, the biggest one, the Americans, support him.”

Then, the Croatian authorities began to arrest and charge Soros’s operatives, who thought they were beyond the law. This was too much: “Diplomats diagnose insanity after Tudjman’s outburst!” screamed the Thatcherite London *Sunday Telegraph*.

On Dec. 12, Srdjan Dvornik, managing director of the Soros Foundation in Zagreb, as well as the foundation’s accountant Ivanka Marton, were caught red-handed by the Croatian border police smuggling \$65,000 in cash from Slovenia. They spent the night in custody. In the meantime, the executive director of Croatia’s “Open Society,” Carmen Basic, was arrested and interrogated. The investigation is expanding, as

we go to press. On Dec. 23, the Croatian branch of the Soros Foundation was charged with financial malpractice and tax evasion. Police announced that they have evidence of “illegal financial transactions.”

“This is the beginning of the implementation of Tudjman’s speech,” an anonymous Soros official confided. “It will paralyze the foundation.”

On Dec. 7, President Tudjman had linked Soros’s nefarious activities with the determination of “some European powers” to keep Croatia under the Versailles system: “It is an historic moment for us to soberly reflect on the mentioned international and domestic circumstances with which Croatia is faced. It is time for you to recognize perils, not to become blind tools for the realization of political goals of international circles that were not favorable to the independence of Croatia, or those domestic Yugo-Communist relics who could not reconcile themselves with an independent Croatia. . . . We have gained a free and sovereign country, and we decide, ourselves, on our destiny. Let us not allow Croatia to ever again become an object of somebody else’s politics.” Tudjman said that, following the collapse of the East bloc, “the West had favored the maintenance of the Versailles order, and the maintenance of Yugoslavia, at any cost.” “Thanks to [our military] victories, we established a relation of partnership with the main world power, the U.S.,” he said. “Despite this fact, and partially due to this fact, domestic and foreign circles closed ranks and radicalized their view, pursuing a policy hostile to Croatian independence and sovereignty.” Through George Soros’s “Open Society” and other organizations, “they had involved in their plans and projects in Croatia 290 different institutions, as well as hundreds of people, to whom they awarded scholarships and paid money.”

“In an attempt to win them over through financial support,” Tudjman continued, “they roped in members of all ages and classes, from high school students to journalists, university professors and academicians, from all circles of culture, economy, science, health, law, and literature.

“They openly say their duty is to change the structures of the government and property, through donations. They even say quite openly that it is not enough for them to train journalists and others through various scholarships in America, BBC scholarships, and such, but that it is also necessary that they be supplied financially, technically, etc.

“Dissatisfied with the United States playing the leading role both in the resolution of the Bosnian crisis and in Croatia, certain European circles sought to discredit the Dayton Accord, because the Americans’ role in Dayton jeopardized their approach. And it was more advisable to blame difficulties and the desired failure on Croatia, than to directly attack the U.S.”

One week later, the editorial in the leading Zagreb daily *Vjesnik* quoted at length from U.S. anti-drug officials Constantine and McCaffrey, denouncing Soros’s drug legalization campaign. The headline: “Soros—A Problem Also For the U.S.!”