
Europe's Sovereignty Threatened

Italian Government Is Brought Down

by Andrew Spannaus

With the beginning of the new year, and the sudden admission by broad sectors of international political and economic institutions that the global economic catastrophe can no longer be ignored, we are seeing an acceleration of the attempt to strip European nations of what remains of their economic sovereignty. In Germany, as denounced by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the Parliament is preparing to incorporate the

Italian Senator: Crisis Threatens a New Fascism

Italian Sen. Lidia Menapace, who invited Lyndon LaRouche to speak in front of the Senate Defense Committee last June, commented in her newsletter on the fall of the Prodi government: "The situation is very dangerous, and to us, fascism of the 21st Century appears—that is, authoritarian democracy which oppresses and subjugates peoples, while thus far, we have been unable to put a brake to the ever more evident crisis of leadership, authority, and effectiveness of political, economic, and social balances of globalization."

In an earlier newsletter, entitled "authoritarian democracy is a product of Clean Hands," Menapace had warned that, "the threat of fascism I have warned against for months, is not a copy of the original fascism, but a process towards 'authoritarian democracy' which is dangerously going on." A very strong component of this slide, wrote Menapace, started with the "Clean Hands" scenario, a political/judicial witchhunt targeting political leaders in the 1992-93 period.

Clean Hands was first exposed by *EIR* as a British-controlled operation, aimed at eliminating the Italian constitutional system, connected to the enslavement of Italy to the supranational dictatorship of the Euro-Maastricht government and to the massive sellout of its national economy.

Maastricht budget-balancing criteria into the Basic Law, or Constitution (*Grundgesetz*); France is angling to have its Parliament approve the proposed European Constitution, which essentially codifies those same Maastricht criteria, without a popular referendum (which would surely fail); and in Italy, the government of Prime Minister Romano Prodi has just been brought down, and numerous establishment forces are pushing for a "technical" government which would slash social spending and ensure compliance with the monetarist diktats coming from the European Commission and Central Bank.

This operation, which would represent a further step toward the suicide of Europe, has been scripted by the same British financier oligarchy which promoted the Maastricht Treaty itself in the early 1990s, as a method of blocking any large-scale economic development throughout the continent, precisely at the time that the major nations on the continent—led by Germany—could have marked a decisive shift away from the disastrous post-industrial, free-market policies of recent decades, through a program of large-scale infrastructural and industrial growth aimed at extending development throughout Eastern Europe and Asia.

On the one hand, European nations have been induced to relinquish any power over economic policy. National governments must now follow the budget criteria set by the European Commission. Monetary policy and currency creation is in the hands of the European Central Bank; and the goal is to eliminate state-intervention from the economy entirely. On the other hand, numerous "chaos" operations have been launched, aimed at dismembering nations outright, or threatening such dismemberment in order to further weaken the state. The most visible such operation currently, is represented by the Flemish independence movement in Belgium, but there are numerous other situations which could be heated up at any time with the right dose of outside manipulation.

Italian Government Crisis

The acute nature of the disintegration of the real economy has created the perfect context for the government crisis in Italy. Over the past year, worsening living conditions have provided the pretext for a populist upsurge, pushed by various circles, aimed at discrediting the nation's political institutions in general, and opening the door for either a soft, technocratic dictatorship, or a more explicit, fascist-style strongman. In following a distinct pattern visible internationally, Romano Prodi's center-left government won the general election in 2006 on a wave of discontent with the inability of Silvio Berlusconi's coalition government to deal with the real problems facing the population. Not surprisingly, however, Prodi's government, although it promised a more socially oriented policy, has been unable to deliver, for two reasons: first, enormous pressure from financial circles to toe the Maastricht austerity line; and