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*Part I: Europe's Monarchists*

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# François Mitterrand: an agent of the House of Orléans

by Laurent Murawiec, European Economics Editor

“Since the beginning, I had considered social affairs from a corporatist angle, which I held for a higher mode of [social] organization. One had to specify that the point was to defend the French crafts, not to desire a return to a retrogressive conception of the corporations. . . . Of course, Mussolini had established a new dialogue among the social partners and defined a modern organization of labor; but the dialogue only served to conceal the predominance that the Fascist state intend to exert. . . . I, to the contrary, was campaigning for decentralization, which, alone, would have been able to encompass specific or local problems and bring them remedies.”

The curious criticism of Mussolini's fascism cited above, which blames Il Duce for his overly centralizing and statist proclivities, but defines a program in broad agreement with Italian fascism, was written by an aging individual who attempted, three times in modern French history, to launch a coup d'état and recover for his family the power and the throne they claim as their birthright. This program for a fascism with a decentralized face is that of Henri, Count of Paris, scion of the Orléans family which controlled and unleashed the Jacobin mob that stormed the Bastille and sent the cream of French scientists to the guillotine; it is the same family that ruled the nation from 1830 to 1848 under King Louis-Philippe, and later in the century, controlled the racist, xenophobic mobs of the Action Française of crazed race-doctrinaire Charles Maurras.

Henri d'Orléans, who calls himself “Count of Paris,” tried to topple the Republic in 1934, and succeeded in instigating a bloodbath in the streets of Paris; he tried to convince Nazi collaborator Marshal Pétain to restore the monarchy and, that having failed, turned to British and American intelligence services to the same end; and when the Fourth Republic collapsed in 1958, largely at the behest of some of his political and military collaborators, the Count was waiting for the crown of France to descend upon his august head.

During the war, and again 20 years ago, his designs were frustrated by Charles de Gaulle. The self-defined “social Christian” king in the wings, who relishes calling for a “social monarchy,” is still waiting for the crown. But with the election of Socialist François Mitterrand as president of France, he is more confident that his children will return to the throne.

## **The Hooded Ones**

It is an unfortunate fact that it does not suffice to cut off the head of a few oligarchs once, or even once in a while, to get rid of the oligarchic principle of government. Even though France has been a republic in form for over a century, the accumulated wealth in land and money, and in networks of loyalty and feodality that centuries have woven, do not unravel peacefully. Their perennity is precisely what accounts for this paradoxical assertion: François Mitterrand is and has been for more than 40 years a political asset of the French royalist faction.

To prove this assertion, we will be returning to pre-World War II France and the milieu in which Mitterrand started his political life; we will follow their deployments through the period of the war and the Fourth Republic, and will then witness the conversion of right-wing oligarchical political figures into left-wing socialists, bringing us up to the recent French presidential election.

We must first return to France between the two world wars; French republicans, who had ruled the nation from 1875 onwards, had set up an advanced educational system and presided over much industrial development and some positive colonial expansion and had been hounded from power in a literal cold coup d'état in 1914. They would not return to power until General de Gaulle entered Paris in 1944.

France after World War I was dominated by a policy very much like that of Mrs. Thatcher, with an outrageously overvalued franc allowing Paris to rise as

a major international financial power center, but which stymied the domestic industrial economy. Unbridled Malthusianism spilled from economic management into population affairs; France's population, net of external migrations, decreased between 1918 and 1939, by a large margin.

French oligarchs, who ruled through a kaleidoscopic succession of short-lived parliamentary governments, had grandiose foreign designs. Their figureheads were the war marshals, such as the "Jackbooted Jesuit" Marshal Foch, who prepared an invasion of the Soviet Union and geared the French armed forces in this direction; or Gen. Maxime Weygand, who led the French army in Poland against Tukachevsky's. A "national" doctrine of geopolitics dictated that France should take control of much of Eastern and Balkan Europe, and fiercely oppose Britain as well as Germany. The infamous motto "Germany will pay" aptly symbolizes the fundamental outlook of those who were intent on reviving the French Empire: consume existing wealth, parasitize the world as it is, and turn your back on production of new wealth.

France internally was slated to return to the monarchy, although the pretenders to the throne were constrained by law to live in exile; the population was not ready to accept such a restoration.

In July 1936, in a castle near Paris, a group of collaborators of the Count of Paris and his father, the Duke of Guise, were convening in great secrecy to found a clandestine terrorist organization that became known as the Cagoule (the Hood). Benito Mussolini's secret intelligence services bankrolled it generously, and provided very large amounts of weapons and military equipment to a group set to exacerbate civil strife by means of a terrorist strategy of tension, and create the conditions of a civil war.

The founders of the Cagoule were not aristocrats; noble families generally delegate such mundane tasks as murder and bombings to individuals much lower on the pecking order. Industrialist Eugène Schueller, a Rothschild business associate who devoted much of his fortune to plotting and scheming, and ideologue Eugène Deloncle, ran the Hooded Ones. They took "contracts" for murdering opponents of the Duce, planted bombs at the homes and offices of right-wing individuals and organizations in the hopes of pinning the blame on the left, and trained a large membership in the crafts and skills of civil war.

The Hooded Ones very often had noble names in their membership. Dukes and counts and marquesses abounded, who clearly had received the word that the Cagoule was bona fide in the eyes of the pretenders. They had been drawn from the large pool of antirepublican ferment organized by monarchist ideologue Charles Maurras, the Action Française, which numbered its

sympathizers by the millions. No priest in a village would fail to read the Action Française newspaper every day.

Not only aristocrats representing some of the oldest and wealthiest noble families joined the Hooded Ones; top officers of the armed forces and military intelligence did too, bringing along their subordinates.

François Mitterrand, then a young man, was an intimate of Cagoule founder Deloncle, and of the whole family, which was no less fanatically devoted to the cause of civil war against the republic than the chief of the Cagoule himself. In fact, one Mitterrand brother married into the Deloncles, and Mitterrand himself, a few years later, was to become a professional employee of the Schueller business concern.

By the mid-1930s, the Orléans family had determined that they should start to organize for their return to the throne; by 1939, they had determined that the republic would be done away with, even at the price of military defeat, foreign invasion and occupation, and a junior-partner role in Adolf Hitler's New European Order. The defeat, as the pretender said, was "the result of 60 years of Republic. . . . French people! It is time to rally around the monarchical principle! Alone it will secure peace, order, justice, the continuity of actions and designs!"

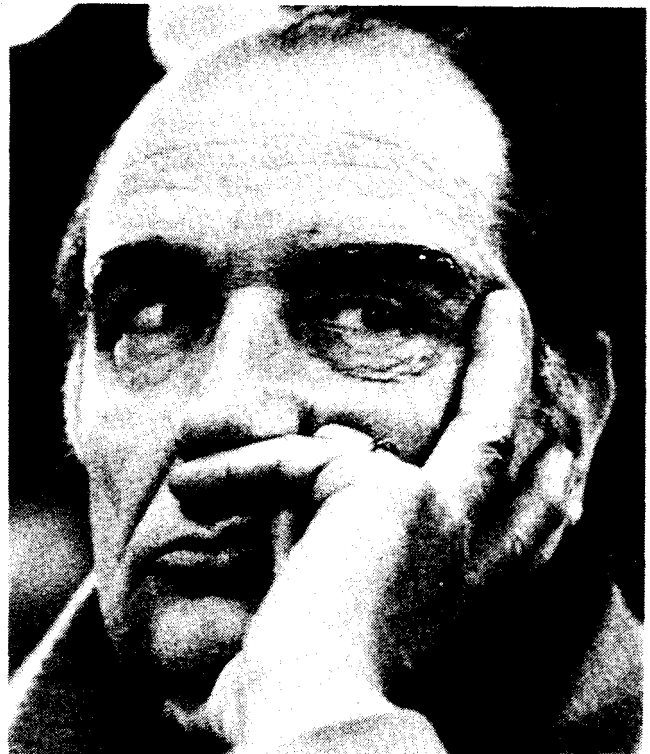
Royalist fanatic General Weygand, himself the illegitimate son of a Hapsburg and the deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces, made sure that 1940 could be nothing but a defeat. He opened Paris to the Nazis by convincing a stunned government that had fled the capital that a communist insurrection had taken over! As Guderian's tanks rolled down the Champs-Élysées, Charles Maurras dubbed the tragedy of the collapse of France "a divine surprise." Senile Marshal Pétain was granted dictatorial powers. The Orléans family was on its way back. The government in Vichy was populated with outright monarchist agents, or associated forces, such as the "synarchist" Banque Worms.

Returning to France after his escape from a German POW camp, Mitterrand moved to take a job in Vichy as junior official in the veterans' administration. His efforts in that job found reward when Vichy awarded him with its highest medal, the Francisque, which he obtained through the personal guarantee of top Vichy official Jeantet, Cagoule founder Deloncle's right-hand man.

The Vichy regime faithfully collaborated with the Nazis; at the same time, it kept channels of communication open with London and with Washington, whose ambassador, Admiral Leahy, spared no words of contempt for General de Gaulle in his dispatches. And while the Vichy cabinet in the south (whose economics, agriculture, justice, and industry ministers in particular, were intimates of the Orléans monarchists) went on



*Henri d'Orleans, the self-designated Comte de Paris, and*



*François Mitterrand.*

preparing the preconditions for a monarchical restoration, with its brutally anti-urban, anti-industrial, "return to Nature" policy, and while the Nazis laid waste to the northern part of France, the Count of Paris's friends were busy founding the Milice, a military and paramilitary organization whose crimes against the resistance fighters and the population still provoke shudders of fear 40 years later. The promonarchist Vichy military intelligence corps Deuxième Bureau was also relaunching its colonial and East European intelligence networks.

Vichy military intelligence included, for example, a sizable network operation along the path of the Orient Express railroad up to Istanbul, which was entirely made of Marseilles mobsters whose principal activity, aside from espionage, was drug smuggling. The Marseilles mobsters worked very hard with the Gestapo to hunt down French patriots; some of their most skillful torturers, such as Auguste Ricord, showed up not accidentally some time later as top figures in the "French Connection" of dope in Latin America. Some others showed more "patriotic" sentiments, especially when the battle of Stalingrad tolled the bell of defeat for the Nazis. Such were the Guerini brothers, later the kings of gangland Marseilles. And all were assets of the Deuxième Bureau.

To be fair, they were not the only ones to turn to British intelligence. François Mitterrand, it is well

known, did the same.

And so did the Count of Paris, an old acquaintance of Churchill's (to this day, it is the British royal family's bank, Coutts, which manages one-half of the Orléans family fortune). In August 1942, the Count, quite incredibly in the middle of a shooting war, flew from Algiers to Vichy to meet Pétain and demand that restoration of the crown be accelerated. Pétain's rebuke sealed the fate of the Vichy gambit of Orléans and his coworkers, including U.S. diplomat Robert Murphy, and two other "Allied" case officers, Jean Monnet and Harold Macmillan.

But the shift from Vichy to London had been greatly facilitated by the fact that while one part of the Hooded Ones had rushed to Vichy, another part had been directly assimilated into Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE) as early as 1940. Interestingly, one of the leaders of the French division of SOE was young Michael Foot, now head of the British Labour Party. By the end of 1942 and throughout 1943, the Deuxième Bureau decorated its agents' hoods with the tricolor Union Jack. The Cagoule was then able to reunify its forces, which it did in Algiers when the Allies stormed Northern Africa.

Henri of Orléans was ready to launch the coup that would bring him to the helm. The Pétain fiasco could be repaired, and de Gaulle thrown out of the way. King Henri VI was on his way to Versailles Palace.