

Editorial

Germany's role for Europe

In 1989 Germany had a unique chance to help the newly free nations of Europe to become prosperous industrial republics. To do this it was necessary, of course, for Germany to oppose the brutal, indeed fascist policies which the Anglo-Americans were proposing to impose on these lands through the agency of the International Monetary Fund. It was in this context that Lyndon LaRouche proposed a major infrastructure project to connect Germany, France, and Austria by high-speed rail, in a transportation system encircling the most densely productive region of Europe.

Such an investment would have laid the basis for the issuance of credit on the basis of productivity gains, to be realized as central and eastern Europe were integrated with the West on a functioning basis. The model was based on the proven dirigist economic theory of Alexander Hamilton, Friedrich List, *et al.*, but more profoundly, on Christian principles of political economy.

What did occur was a vicious campaign, run out of London, branding Chancellor Kohl the Führer of a new Reich, before any such plan could get under way. Sad to say, the Kohl government by-and-large capitulated. The fact that the Mitterrand government loosened Franco-German ties in favor of close cooperation with the British added to Kohl's woes. The Europeans in general preferred to bend to the will of London and Washington rather than face a showdown. As a result, the Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, and other former socialist economies are being mowed down one after another by the "shock therapy" austerity scythe.

Even in reunified Germany there was not a worthy investment policy. Instead, western German firms simply moved to the east to exploit business opportunities, in order to maximize quick profits under the conditions of a shrinking world market. As a result, eastern Germany's economy sank below the levels at which it had functioned even under communist misrule.

Now the nations of continental Europe and, in particular Germany, are reaping the harvest of this failure to seize the historic moment. The global depression is reaching even the robust economies of Germany and

Japan. An economic collapse in Germany will have crippling results, because Germany is in the center of Europe. It is the linchpin of the European economy, and thus of the international economy.

If Germany goes, the entire world economy goes; and Germany is starting to crumble. It has been going down for 20 years under the influence of Anglo-American policies, but it kept a kind of rearguard independence. Indeed, while the IMF's austerity dictates seem to target the former East bloc, they have also wittingly undermined western Europe.

There is a solution to the crisis, but it demands an end once and for all to the disease of pragmatic politics. The IMF must be brought down and the power of the Anglo-American oligarchy broken. This entails a transformation of the axiomatic basis upon which social-economic processes are now organized. Obviously, free trade ideology has amply demonstrated its malevolent bankruptcy. It is a thin gloss for usury and trade war.

The Anglo-American oligarchy is in the process of wishfully consolidating a new Roman Empire under its control. The reality is that these fools are creating unmanageable chaos through their incompetent policies, in which every nation we now know may be destroyed.

It is about time that good people everywhere stop temporizing and reject pragmatism. The IMF is evil, it must go, and with it, all those politicians who capitulate before the IMF. We can understand the pressures which are brought to bear against decent men and women, even including assassination threats against them and their families. But the very fate of humanity rests upon their shoulders, and in a special way now upon those of Germany's leaders.

Viewed from a historical standpoint, the cowardice of capitulating to the IMF—the refusal of people to buck this tyranny—will be seen as a horrible crime. The banker's dictatorship which the Anglo-American oligarchy is attempting to impose on the world will have consequences far more terrible than either Hitler or Stalin's worst atrocities.