

Finnish fascist pushed by Wall St., London

by Mark Burdman

Readers of the *Wall Street Journal* were shocked to see on the front page on May 20 (May 24 in Europe), a portrait of self-professed Finnish “ecological fascist” Pentti Linkola, who yearns for world wars and famines in order to exterminate most of the human race, and who wants only “a few million” Americans to survive. The Linkola worldview was published under the title, “Deep in Solitude, a Finnish Thinker Posits Cataclysms: What the World Needs Now, Pentti Linkola Believes, Is Famine and a Good War.”

Leading British commentator Lord William Rees-Mogg called attention to Linkola in his May 26 London *Times* column, writing that the Finn “wants a massive cull of humanity. . . . He would, at least in theory, welcome a world war as a way of reducing overpopulation.” Rees-Mogg then mused about how “overpopulation” is causing wars around the world. Rees-Mogg is a chief supporter in Britain of the new “Other Europe” political movement of Anglo-French magnate Sir James Goldsmith. Sir James has funded various ecological projects of his brother Teddy, whose sympathies for Cambodian genocidalist Pol Pot in the 1970s are notorious. Rees-Mogg is also, effectively, a business partner of Queen Elizabeth II, through overlapping interests in speculator George Soros’s Quantum Fund.

In fact, the current promotion of Linkola would probably trace back to the circles around Royal Consort Prince Philip, international president of the World Wide Fund for Nature. One Finnish influential told a journalist on May 31 that a pet Linkola theory is that AIDS is a benefit, since it will reduce world population. That correlates with Prince Philip’s comment in August 1988, that he would like to be reincarnated as a deadly virus in order to reduce population. The Royal Consort has, in the past, called for “culling” the human race.

Coincidence or not, during the week of May 30, Prince Philip was given an award by the United Nations Environment Program for his efforts to bring together ecology and religion at an international gathering in Assisi, Italy in 1986. Prince Philip is playing an important role in mobilizing for the September 1994 U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt. Linkola expresses the viewpoint that is hegemonic among the Cairo organizers, stripped of all the euphemistic niceties of U.N. diplomats.

‘Destroying human culture’

The *Wall Street Journal*’s Dana Milbank wrote from

Saaskmaki, Finland: “In his solitude, Mr. Linkola, an amateur biologist, ponders the world’s problems—overpopulation, dwindling natural resources, industrial trashing of the biosphere. And he has come up with a novel solution to save the earth: annihilating most of the human race. End Third World aid and asylum for refugees, so millions die. Try mandatory abortions for those with two children. And then find some way to get rid of the extra billions of people. With 2.5 times more humans than earth can support, another world war, he says, would be ‘a happy occasion for the planet.’ Living alone in primitive style here without running water or car, the fisherman likes to compare humanity to a sinking ship with 100 passengers and a lifeboat that can only hold 10. ‘Those who hate life try to pull more people on board and drown everybody. Those who love and respect life use axes to chop off the extra hands hanging on the gunwale.’”

“In other parts of the world, the 61-year-old Mr. Linkola might be dismissed as a crank, if not a fiend. He is a college dropout who quit society 35 years ago to fish and to fret. But here in brooding, nature-loving Finland, Mr. Linkola is a national symbol, a leading ‘eco-fascist’ who is one of the country’s most celebrated authors. The misanthropic Finn appears often on television and delivers lectures to crowded university auditoriums.” His books are national bestsellers, and have won literary prizes. Esa Saarinen, professor of philosophy at Helsinki University, exults, “He’s a towering figure, one of our leading intellectuals. . . . Finns in some strange way are proud he’s a Finn. If it weren’t for Pentti, there would have to be somebody else like this.”

His entry in the Finnish equivalent of *Who’s Who* lists his hobby as “destroying human culture.”

‘If we are not cruel today, all is lost’

Milbank wrote that Linkola believes that only “a few million” Americans can be allowed to survive in his future utopia, since “the U.S. symbolizes the worst ideologies in the world: growth and freedom.” In what Milbank calls Linkola’s “fascist paradise,” there would be “no growth or freedom.” Rather, what he calls “green police,” unencumbered by the “syrup of ethics” that governs human behavior today, would keep progress in check. People would work as fishermen and farmers, and “everything we have developed over the last 100 years should be destroyed.”

Milbank later questioned whether a man like Linkola would be personally homicidal. Evidently not, she wrote. In statements that would have probably made Adolf Hitler blush, Linkola told the *Journal* writer: “If there were a button I could press, I would sacrifice myself without hesitating, if it meant millions of people would die.” Expressing fears that the present-day talk of human rights, democracy, and growth would undermine his plans, he expressed his hope that there were still time for people to come to their senses: “We still have a chance to be cruel. But if we are not cruel today, all is lost.”