

dynamics of community life.” Then, in a July 18 interview, on Germany’s second television channel, ZDF, SPD Chairman Oskar Lafontaine praised the “new political movement” that has been developing most rapidly “in the United States,” namely “communitarianism.”

### **British monarchy promotes communitarian football clubs**

In Britain, Etzioni is in touch regularly with both Labour Party leader Tony Blair and Liberal Party leader Paddy Ashdown, and has significant contacts in the Conservative Party.

It is in Great Britain that the nature of the sponsorship for communitarianism becomes most apparent. This is not surprising, given that the movement, as we have said, usefully serves the purposes of the new British Empire. The main advocacy group for communitarianism in Britain is a London-based think-tank, Demos. Demos’s director, Geoff Mulgan, arranged Etzioni’s two meetings with Blair. Mulgan portrays Demos’s activities as aimed at “grassroots” movements. But the people who run Demos, are not exactly grass roots.

The group’s advisory council includes Helen Alexander, chief executive, Economist Intelligence Unit; John Ashworth, director, London School of Economics; Ian Hargreaves, editor of the Fabian Society’s *New Statesman and Society*; Anita Roddick, managing director of the Prince Philip/World Wide Fund for Nature-linked Body Shop PLC; Martin Taylor, chief executive, Barclays Bank; and several leading British trades unionists.

Demos’s self-described “core funding” is received from such multinational giants as British Gas, Shell International, National Westminster Bank, and British Petroleum, all closely linked to the political and financial empire of the British Crown. Demos projects have been sponsored by, among others, the Gulbenkian Foundation, which ultimately draws its resources from the Royal Dutch Shell billions; IBM; and Prudential.

And what is the perspective of this distinguished grouping of individuals and British imperial institutions, for building a communitarian movement in Britain itself? According to Mulgan, a coming edition of the Demos journal will feature a study about how to use “local football clubs” as potential “agents of communitarian change” in Great Britain! According to Mulgan, “While the thesis makes me a bit queasy, given the recent hooligan behavior, the fact is, local football clubs have often been agents of positive community change, and are often the strongest local community organizations.”

The behavior of those lunatic English “football fans,” rampaging against any German targets they could find in Britain, after England’s loss to Germany in the Euro ’96 soccer semifinals in late June, gives a taste, in communitarianism, of the potential for a full-fledged fascist movement to be unleashed.

## **Mongolia: Elections bring shock therapy and geopolitics**

by Mary Burdman

The “democratic” opposition victory in the June 30 elections in Mongolia, bodes ill for that nation. Mongolia, which lies between China and the Russian Federation, just south of Lake Baikal, has only 2.3 million people in a territory equivalent to that of western Europe. The economy, already very poor (Mongolia owed the Soviet Union approximately \$15 billion in 1990), has suffered greatly since the election of “former” communist Punsalmaagin Ochirbat as President in June 1993. Ochirbat began using “shock therapy” reform methods and sent the economy into free fall. Inflation hit 325% in the recent period, although it has fallen to “only” 50% since. He imposed a privatization plan modelled on that of the Czech Republic, the eastern European darling of the free marketeers, and called for opening Mongolian enterprises to foreign investors, even to the point of selling them 100% control.

One-third of the population are still nomadic herders, subject to the extreme weather conditions (temperatures stay above freezing for the full 24 hours for only one month a year). Average wages are the equivalent of \$35 a month, with 22% of the population living below the Mongolian poverty line.

### **Making matters worse**

The Social Democratic government elected in the upset on June 30, is in no way capable of dealing with this situation. Most of the members are young and have never been in government positions before; they were totally unprepared to win. The seats held by the communists in the 76-member Hural (parliament) fell from 70 to 23, while the democrats went up from 6 seats to 48. Their campaign was for even faster economic liberalization and political reform.

The Social Democrats’ agenda could eliminate tens of thousands of jobs, although unemployment is already 10%. Their “reform” program includes raising electricity and gasoline prices (something the communists refused to do), selling off state-run companies, and closing unprofitable ones. The new prime minister, M. Enkhasaikhan, in order to attract foreign investment, said that new investors “should be able to

take majority control, even 100%" of Mongolian companies. Social Democrat Party head Bat-Erdeniyn Batbayar said: "Only foreign investments can save Mongolia. We must do everything to attract them."

Only one-fifth of the economy is now private, but "we will reverse that," said Rinchinyamin Amarzhargal, head of Mongolia's economics college, who has a degree in "development economics" from England's Bradford University. He is the likely new finance minister. Only the energy system will not be open to foreign control. Otherwise, telecommunications, railways, and gold, uranium, and copper mining will all be available for foreign investment. However, Mongolia is not likely to get much. Foreigners only invested \$115 million in the country over the past *six years*. In addition, Mongolia will be hit by the collapse in copper prices which occurred after the Sumitomo bank scandal in Japan. Copper accounted for half of Mongolia's exports last year.

Already, Mongolia's first fully private commercial bank, the Central Asia Bank, has gone bankrupt, and there are fears of an expanding financial crisis.

### British influence

Mongolia is facing other dangers of a geopolitical nature. Throughout this century, Mongolia has been a target of both Great Britain and Japan, because of its strategic position in Eurasia. In the post-World War II period, while Mongolia remained very closely tied to the Soviet Union, the British got a hand in, as early as possible. In 1963, just after Mongolia joined the United Nations, Britain established the first and, for most of the succeeding decades, the only embassy, complete with a full-fledged ambassador, of a Western industrial nation in the capital, Ulan Bator. As the *Times* of London, Britain's establishment newspaper, noted in January 1990, the British embassy "has been there because Whitehall had the prescience to recognize Mongolia's unique position as an observation point between the Soviet Union and China. [The embassy] has made Britain the number-one potential beneficiary of Mongolia's gradual rejection of the communist straitjacket. . . . The Mongolians have one of the largest copper mines in the world . . . and a wealth of other minerals." Britain has since become the biggest western investor in Mongolia.

Now, Mongolia's "unique" geopolitical position makes it a key factor in the present Russian-Chinese strategic rapprochement and for the development of the Eurasian continental land-bridge, both of which London is determined to spoil.

In late April, President Ochirbat made a 10-day tour of Britain and France—coinciding exactly with the extremely important summit of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan with China in Shanghai, which Mongolia did not attend.

In Britain, Ochirbat had an audience with the Queen, as well as with Prime Minister John Major. The Queen's

daughter, the princess royal, visited Mongolia in 1993, weeks after Ochirbat was elected in June of that year. Press coverage indicated that he spoke of "Ulan Bator's love affair with Britain."

French President Jacques Chirac invited Ochirbat to France as part of Chirac's new Asia policy. France and Mongolia signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation, and France pledged to send an ambassador to Mongolia, for the first time since 1984.

While in Paris, Ochirbat made a statement that Mongolia wants to keep its "equidistance" from both Russia and China, something his hosts must have been delighted to hear.

### London Times revives Genghis Khan

The *Times* greeted the June elections by hailing the "Mongolian renaissance" in its July 2 editorial. Included is the astonishing rehabilitation of Genghis Khan, conqueror of the vast Mongol empire stretching over most of Eurasia, which blocked and cut apart cultural and economic development among China, India, the Muslim world, Russia, and western Europe.

"Mongolia has triumphantly confirmed its place in the vanguard of peaceful democratic change in Asia," the *Times* wrote. "Revived patriotism and political reform [have] rapidly become firmly entwined in the popular mind—a process in which the rehabilitation of Genghis Khan, the great 12th-century Mongolian conqueror, played an important part. . . ."

"President Ochirbat has appealed to Britain, which was for many years the only western government to maintain an embassy in Ulan Bator, to take a lead in buttressing its recovered independence. That appeal merits full-hearted support."

The *Times* pointed to a key feature of the new Mongolia: the revival of the reputation of the brutal Genghis Khan, conqueror of "the greatest empire in history," as the nation's hero. It should be noted that Genghis Khan was touted as "the man of the millennium" by the *Washington Post* in January 1996. The Social Democrats ran one television election advertisement, showing Genghis Khan coming out of his tent and jumping on his horse, to gallop off to vote for the "reformers."

Another means of enhancing Mongolia's "buffer state" role, is the promotion of lamaist Buddhism, which centuries ago spread from Mongolia to Tibet, also being cultivated as a "buffer state" (see *EIR*, July 5, p. 35). The Dalai Lama of Tibet, known, among other things, for his patronage of Japanese Aum cult leader Shoko Asahara, visited Mongolia for a week during the first part of August 1995. He will visit Mongolia each year, and the London-based Tibet Foundation has been sending exile Tibetan monks to Mongolia. The Dalai Lama's visit was arranged with the aid of the Indian ambassador to Ulan Bator, Bakula Rinpoche, who said at the time that Mongolians "must preserve their culture to be independent, and that culture is Buddhism."