

'Clean Hands,' but dirty tricks vs. Europe

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In a Jan. 27 interview with the Italian Catholic daily *Avvenire*, Italian Senator and former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti called for a parliamentary investigation into the so-called "Clean Hands" investigations, and blasted the ongoing smear campaign against Germany's former Chancellor, Helmut Kohl. "Are they trying to destroy the Christian Democracy in Europe?" he asked. "The Clean Hands scandals in Italy and Germany aim at destroying the Christian Democracy. . . . Magistrates should learn to respect institutions."

Former Prime Minister Andreotti should know. Last year, he was acquitted of vague charges that he was in the pocket of the Sicilian Mafia, after a seven-year campaign of smears and allegations, coming primarily from "ex"-mafiosi who were under Federal Witness Protection from the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice. Prosecutors had sought a 30-year jail sentence for the leader of Italy's postwar Christian Democratic Party, and had conducted a similar campaign to decimate the Socialist Party, whose longtime leader, Bettino Craxi, was also framed up.

Craxi died on Jan. 19, 2000, in self-exile in Tunisia. His daughter told the media, "He was killed by the judges." This was a direct reference to the "Clean Hands" Jacobin magistrates who, under the banner of "anti-corruption," have turned continental Europe's political landscape into a killing field—much to the advantage of the financial oligarchs who have rammed through the European Monetary Union, better named the "Europe of the Bankers and Speculators."

The leading front-group for the assault on the political institutions and leaders of continental Europe is Transparency International, which was hatched as an in-house project of the World Bank, to root out "political corruption," and to impose a new set of "good governance" conditionalities on regimes around the world. Under the rules of "good governance" peddled by Transparency International, any government that attempts to defend its sovereignty against the onslaught of speculators, or attempts to maintain its military institutions intact, or rebuffs the International Monetary Fund, is *prima facie* guilty of corruption.

Murder by decree

Craxi's daughter Stefania told Italian television, in an interview from Tunisia, "He was killed by judges who handed down infamous sentences that were full of lies, by friends who turned their backs on him and did not intervene to stop

injustices. . . . The political leadership of the country was wiped out in a matter of months under the 'corruption' scandal triggered and run by the Milan Tribunal special team known as Clean Hands."

The "Andreotti Affair," the first of the "Clean Hands" outrages, was launched in early 1992—when Andreotti was serving his seventh term as Prime Minister, and was one of the most senior statesmen on the continent. It was launched against the backdrop of the drive by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President François Mitterrand to shove a suicidal Maastricht Treaty down the throat of German Chancellor Kohl—a precondition for allowing Germany to reunify.

Now that continental Europe is under the Maastricht "euro" regime, the process of political demolition that began with the assault against the Italian political parties has been retargetted against France and Germany—the two other pillars of the continent, and the two countries that must be brought to their knees to allow Prime Minister Tony Blair's Britain to tear up continental unity, and hence to dominate.

Not coincidentally, the onslaught against Kohl was launched in November 1999—at a moment when resistance was bubbling to the surface in both Germany and France to the "Third Way" insanity of Blair, and to efforts by the European Union Commission bureaucracy in Brussels to accelerate the deindustrialization of the continent. It also coincided with a strong reaction against the efforts by the British telecommunications firm, Vodafone-Airtouch, to launch a hostile takeover of the German industrial conglomerate, Mannesmann. In large part due to the political chaos set off by the "Kohlgate" party finance scandals, that takeover succeeded.

Asked during an international press conference in late January to comment on the "Kohlgate" scandals in Germany, Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche was blunt:

"I think that the world has to wake up, awaken to reality. Do we want responsible sovereign government, or do we want the things that were done on the dark side, by agreement among governments, by agreements among parties—things that were actually matters of national policy and national security—do we want these things to be used as a pretext for destroying the very institution of sovereign government itself?"

"I think that the line has to be drawn. The first thing is, we cannot have party organizations, or governments, destabilized by these kinds of operations. . . . That should not be done. This whole Clean Hands operation should be shut down, by agreement among nation-states. It shouldn't go on. If somebody actually took something for personal profit, which was improper, or used money for some political purposes in an improper way, they should be spanked for it, and exposed for it. But we should also say, we must refrain from prosecuting people, and destroying governments, for the sake of the smell of scandal."