

A replay of the Jacobin Terror on the streets of Washington

by Jeffrey Steinberg

As this issue of *EIR* goes to press, a motley collection of anarchists, eco-terrorists, and Al Gore-loving trade unionists from the AFL-CIO, joined by thousands of dupes and fellow travellers, are descending on Washington, D.C. to stage a replay of the ruckus in Seattle, that overran the December 1999 World Trade Organization summit. The current “target” of this Jacobin outpouring, is ostensibly the annual Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which draws thousands of Treasury officials, central bankers, and financiers to the nation’s capital for a week of meetings, including a session of Group of Seven finance officials.

Britain’s “green billionaire,” Teddy Goldsmith, Hollywood’s Ted Turner, and the Anglophile Northern Virginia Hunt Country “Friends of George Bush,” typified by the oh-so-green Piedmont Environmental Council, are prominent among the “Daddy Warbucks,” bankrolling this invasion of Washington by the demonstrators.

Much of the American and European media have por-

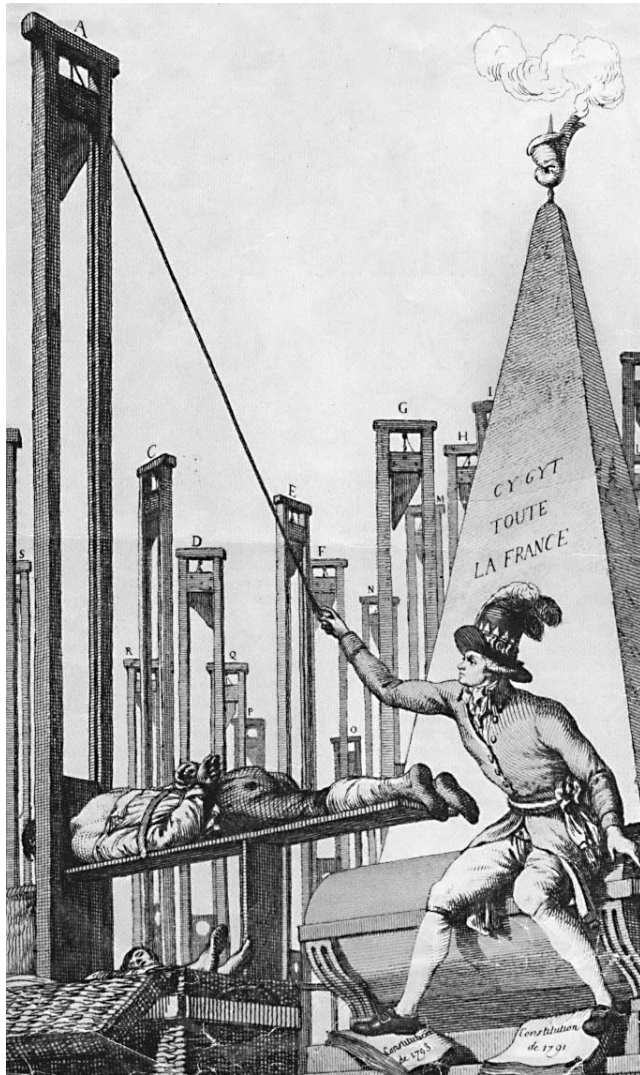
trayed this invasion as a benign expression of genuine opposition to the murderous policies of the IMF and the World Bank; but nothing could be further from the truth. To understand the ongoing street antics, which could, yet, turn to hard-core terrorism, it is vital to first revisit the July 14, 1789 Bastille Day terror in Paris, which launched the destruction of France, and which shut off any hope of that nation taking a leading role in spreading the republican principles and policies of the American Revolution into continental Europe.

Now, as then, the purpose of the street terror is to destroy any prospect of genuine policy reform, reform today best expressed in Lyndon LaRouche’s call for a New Bretton Woods system, starting with the orderly bankruptcy reorganization of the current mountain of illegitimate and unpayable world debt. For, the leaders of the New Jacobins descending on Washington are just as dedicated to the genocidal status quo, as are the top officials of the IMF, World Bank, Bank of England, and the U.S. Treasury.

From beginning to end, the original Jacobin Terror, un-

An AFL-CIO demonstration in Washington, D.C. on April 12. To understand the ruckus that is being created there by a motley assortment of groups, look to the higher geopolitical stringpullers; study the lessons of the Jacobin Terror, which ravaged France in the 1780s and '90s.





As a result of the British-run Jacobin mobs, the republican and scientific leadership of France was decapitated.

leashed by the mob insurrection of July 14, 1789, was a British East India Company-run affair, with collusion by French Anglophile circles, typified by the Duke of Orléans and France's Finance Minister, Jacques Necker. Britain's Lord Shelburne, the head of the "Secret Committee" of the British East India Company, and his intelligence chief Jeremy Bentham, were the authors of much of the inflammatory rhetoric of Danton, Marat, and Robespierre, that set loose the Jacobin mobs, bankrolled and liquored-up via East India Company and Duke of Orléans funds. Records still available at the British Museum corroborate that Danton and Marat were paid provocateurs of London.

The France of Franklin and Lafayette

Despite the fact that France's naval power had been crushed during the Seven Years War (1756-63), Bourbon

France remained an industrial power, rivalling Britain, through the 1770s. Thus, Bourbon France, the base of operations of Benjamin Franklin, would play a pivotal role in the victory of the American Revolution. A staunch pro-American faction within the French elites, exemplified by the American Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette, understood the implications of the American Revolution for France and for all of Europe. The *Mercure de France* daily newspaper, allied to the French government, wrote in 1775 about the prospects of American independence: "Independence will be a signal for the liberation of both continents. . . . Everything will prosper. Luxuries as well as necessities will abound. All Europe will enter into profitable commerce with the whole of America and with prosperity. Then America will be proud to have taken Europeans into her bosom. Then and only then will Europe reap the reward for the discovery of America."

In 1777, the French government-subsidized *Courier de l'Europe* published the full text of the Declaration of Independence, and Thomas Paine's rebuttal to the Abbé Reynal, a Bentham-run "royalist," who railed against the Franco-American alliance, was published throughout France.

The great French scientist Antoine Lavoisier, a close friend of Franklin, organized the production of saltpeter, to provide gunpowder to the Americans, building a new industry for France. France formed a cornerstone of the League of Armed Neutrality, with Catherine the Great's Russia, which stymied Britain's efforts to impose an embargo on European shipments to the colonists in North America.

In June 1779, George Washington sent Lafayette back to Paris to organize an armed invasion of England, across the English Channel, to coincide with a republican insurrection in Ireland. The effort was blocked, when British spies in the Franklin camp alerted Lord Shelburne to the plot. But the incident underscored, for the British oligarchy, that their own survival was at stake, should the republican ideas of the American Revolution take firm root on the European continent.

The Gordon Riots

Shortly after the invasion plans against England were uncovered, Lord Shelburne, the head of the Venetian Party in London, moved swiftly to overthrow the government of Lord North, which had hopelessly bungled the war in North America. Shelburne's actions would set the stage for the later events of Bastille Day in France.

In June 1780, using his position within the House of Lords, and deploying his apparatus inside the House of Commons, Shelburne pushed through so-called "Irish Reform" laws, which conscripted Irishmen into the British Army, to be shipped off to fight in North America. Shelburne aimed to crush the republican circles in Ireland, not by offering improvements, but the appearance of "reform" was key to his plottings.

Immediately, Shelburne provided secret funding to Lord George Gordon, to stage a Protestant mob assault on the En-

glish Parliament, ostensibly in protest against the “improved” treatment of the Irish. For eight days, in June 1780, a paid, drunken rabble stormed the English Parliament, sending targeted government officials down flights of stairs, and out windows, in some cases, to their death. As head of the interior committee of the House of Lords, Shelburne held off on reading the Riot Act, which called out the Home Guard, until the violence had spread to every corner of London.

When the dust settled, Lord North had resigned as Prime Minister, and Shelburne had been installed as Foreign Secretary for the Northern District, placing him in charge of negotiations with the Americans, in the new Rockingham Ministry.

Lord Gordon, for his efforts, was briefly placed in the Tower of London. However, he was soon pardoned by Shelburne, and sent off to the Netherlands, where he would surface several years later, in the guise of a Hassidic rabbi, and become an occult adviser to Marie Antoinette, during the final hours of the House of Bourbon.

Bastille Day

The Franklin networks in France, still led by Lafayette, and institutionalized through such agencies as the Gallo-American Society, founded in 1787 to promote cultural and commercial exchanges between the newly independent United States and France, and to extend “the progress of human knowledge,” moved to introduce some of the key ideas of the American Revolution into France. They sought to reform the Constitutional Monarchy, as a first step.

However, by this time, through political intrigues involving the Duke of Orléans and Abbé Reynal, among others, Jacques Necker, a Swiss Protestant, loyal to Shelburne, was installed as France’s Minister of Finance, and he proceeded to impose a series of disastrous policies, aimed at bankrupting the French government, and reversing much of the industrial expansion of the previous decade.

By the late 1780s, as the result of Necker’s actions, France was in deep financial trouble, despite the continuing progress toward reform of the monarchy, and the spread of American republican ideas through the Gallo-American Society. The economic hardship that had befallen the masses of French farmers and laborers, the rapid expansion of unemployment, the bankruptcy of the French government, afforded Shelburne et al. the opportunity to make their move.

On June 14, 1789, Georges Jacques Danton, an agent of the Duke of Orléans, organized the mob assault on the Bastille prison, which set off a replay of the Gordon Riots, but on a far grander scale. The Terror was unleashed.

At the Boxwood Estate of Lord Shelburne, in Britain, Bentham, now the chief of intelligence of the British Foreign Office, assembled a “radical writers workshop,” to churn out inflammatory speeches, which were translated into French, and hand-delivered to the Duke of Orléans, by no less a person than the French Ambassador to Britain. In 1790, Danton formed the Cordeliers Club in Paris, to better direct the ongoing

ing Terror. The aim of the group was “to denounce before the tribunal of public opinion the abuses of the various authorities and every sort of infringement of the rights of man.”

“It is by upheaval that we have overthrown the despotism,” Danton railed. “It is only by a great national upheaval that we shall make the despot retreat. So far we have only waged Lafayette’s sham war; we must wage a more terrible war. It is time to tell the people that it must hurl itself in a mass upon the enemy.”

Indeed, Lafayette and the republican reformers were among the first targets of the Terror. Lavoisier was among those put to death by guillotine, after the public opinion tribunal judge bellowed, “The revolution has no need of science!”

On Nov. 25, 1791, Bentham wrote to French National Assembly official J.P. Garran, offering to move to Paris to take personal charge of the Jacobin prison system. He proposed to construct, and personally administer the Panopticon slave-labor prison, that he had designed in 1787. “Allow me to construct a prison on this model—I will be the jailer,” Bentham wrote. Bentham’s offer was not accepted; however, in 1792, at the height of the Terror, Bentham was made an Honorary Citizen of France.

In January 1793, King Louis XVI was captured by the Cordeliers Club and the Jacobins, as he was attempting to flee the country. He was brought back from Versailles to Paris, at which point a heated debate ensued, over whether the King should be executed or exiled. Robespierre ranted, “To propose a trial for Louis XVI, in whatever form, is to retrace our steps, toward royal and constitutional reform. It is a counter-revolutionary idea, since it put the revolution itself on trial. I demand that the convention declare him forthwith to be a traitor to the French nation, and a criminal against humanity.”

Tom Paine and the Girondins, the American faction, argued for Louis’s life. Paine proposed that he be banished to the United States. The Girondins lost the vote, the King was executed, and, within a short time, Girondin leaders such as Brissot and Condorcet were dead. Paine was jailed by the Terror, and Lafayette was already languishing in an Austrian prison.

The American republican faction had been crushed.

The ‘Ruckus’ in Washington

Just as the so-called Jacobin revolution aimed and succeeded in crushing the legitimate republican forces in France, so the aim of the authors of the Ruckus in Washington is to crush any hope of a new, just world economic order, in a Terror of blood, broken glass, and tumult.

From the perspective presented above, Teddy Goldsmith may be called the Jeremy Bentham of April 2000, and current U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers the Jacques Necker of April 2000.

Research for this article was provided by Linda de Hoyos.