

completely new definition of East-West policy based on infra-structural and industrial integration of the Eurasian continent. This chance was destroyed, when Thatcher, Bush, and Mitterrand forced Germany to capitulate to the Maastricht Treaty and imposed the so-called “Reform Policy” on the countries of the former Comecon, which was based on the geopolitically-nourished intention to reduce these countries to raw materials exporters with an essentially Third World status.

Now, again, such an historical opportunity exists. Two weeks after the catastrophe in the United States, Russian President Putin came for a long-scheduled state visit to Germany and addressed the German Parliament with a truly historic speech. He emphasized that the Cold War was over, and offered a completely new quality of cooperation among the nations of this world.

If one looks at the total package of Russian political, economic, and cultural initiatives taken by the Russian government in the recent period, it is clear that Russia not only is committed to the development of the Eurasian Land-Bridge as a policy of war-avoidance by bringing prosperity to all countries of Eurasia including those of Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Near East. It is also the view of leading circles in Russia that world peace can only be secured, if the United States follows the path indicated by Lyndon LaRouche, namely, that the United States must be integrated into the Eurasian Land-Bridge as it extends via the Bering Strait into the Americas. So, it is up to the United States to join the potential for a new community of principle, as it was intended by the American Founding Fathers.

The United States has two options. One is to become an American version and a new variety of the dictatorship of Hitler, whom Montagu Norman, the Harrimans, and others, after all, helped to bring to power. (For example, in the American Eugenics Society, it was promoted that Hitler’s race policy was exactly what every “civilized society” should implement.) If this were to happen, the fate of mankind would be doomed for a long time. Or, the United States will remind itself of its tradition, to be a beacon of freedom and a temple of liberty, of the proud heritage of Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, FDR, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King.

A lot will depend, on how real friends now help this struggling nation to find the right way.

This is why it is urgent, that a good number of Parliamentarians and average German citizens should stop trying to *appear* to be brainwashed—because they fear that they will be crushed otherwise by the Anglo-Americans—and learn the lesson of history. Had leaders in other countries not praised Hitler after his takeover, or kept quiet or supported him like the *New York Times* until 1938, events might have turned out differently.

And Don Jordan should not brag so much, because it is true, that Germany was saved from Hitler by the United States, but it is also true, that he was helped into power by Americans of the type Don Jordan obviously likes.

Ashcroft Seeks Hitler-Style Dictatorship Measures

by Edward Spannaus

To understand the extraordinary powers being sought by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft under the rubric of anti-terrorism legislation, one must know the process by which the Nazi emergency measures, the *Notverordnungen*, were established in early 1933, on the pretext of the Reichstag fire.

As is discussed in this issue’s Editorial, Adolf Hitler had been put into power by a circle of British and U.S. financiers, whose situation was becoming increasingly desperate at the time. Within a month, the Anglo-American-backed plotters of the Hitler coup d’état, arranged the Reichstag fire—immediately and falsely blamed on the Communists—which was used as a justification for the emergency police-state laws.

In January 2001, shortly after the nomination of John Ashcroft was announced, Lyndon LaRouche warned that we would soon see the outbreaks of provocations and wars, to which the Bush Administration would respond with crisis-management, *Notverordnung*-type emergency measures. If John Ashcroft were confirmed for U.S. Attorney General, LaRouche warned, he would be in a position of crucial responsibility as part of an Executive branch crisis-management team, at the point when the administration would be faced with an unavoidable series of financial and strategic crises.

LaRouche and his associates made a fight out of the Ashcroft nomination—on precisely this issue of the role that Ashcroft would play under crisis conditions. The leadership of the Democratic Party ducked the issue, even when the Senate Democrats clearly had the power to stop Ashcroft’s confirmation as Attorney General. Today, there can be no doubt: that LaRouche was right, and they were wrong, in allowing Ashcroft’s nomination to go through.

The parallel of the Nazi emergency laws is the precise parallel to understand what Ashcroft is now doing. That is not to say that he is witting of the overall *coup d’état* plot now under way. But Ashcroft’s actions today are consistent with those of certain Nazi officials in 1933. He is playing into the coup plot, the same way some German officials played into the 1933 plot to put Hitler into power and then to quickly establish a dictatorship.

Ashcroft’s Emergency Powers

Since the events of Sept. 11, Ashcroft, who up to that point had operated largely out of the public limelight, has



A demonstration in January 2001, against confirmation of John Ashcroft as Attorney General, already warned of the danger of a “Reichstag Fire” and emergency decrees.

emerged as a prominent spokesman and a key player in the Bush Administration’s crisis-management team. And he has demonstrated that LaRouche’s warnings were fully justified.

In the immediate aftermath of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, Ashcroft’s Department of Justice (DOJ) went into action to patch together a new package of anti-terrorism laws—which consisted largely of measures which the Justice Department had already been seeking, but had been unable to get passed by Congress.

And even as the new legislative package was being submitted to Congress and debated, Ashcroft’s Justice Department and the FBI were already stretching existing laws beyond any previous limits, in rounding up and detaining hundreds of persons, largely of Middle Eastern origin.

In his appearance before the House Judiciary Committee on Sept. 24, Ashcroft reported that the FBI and INS (the DOJ’s Immigration and Naturalization Service) have arrested or detained 352 individuals since Sept. 11, and they are seeking 392 more beyond that. (Some informed sources believed that the number actually detained far exceeds Ashcroft’s official estimate.)

Of the 352 being held as of Sept. 24, there were 98 being detained on immigration violations, and 254 were being held on other charges, generally for minor offenses such as traffic violations, misdemeanors, and identification fraud. At least a dozen are being held as “material witnesses”—a hitherto little-used provision, that allows law enforcement to hold a person without bond, if he is deemed likely to have significant information about a crime.

According to press accounts, many of those detained have not been given access to a lawyer, and some are being held incommunicado.

The Justice Department’s Legislative Package

Even though Ashcroft had demanded that Congress pass his so-called “Anti-Terrorism Act of 2001” within a week,

many members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, balked, and demanded time to read and analyze it. A markup of the bill, scheduled for Sept. 25 by the House Judiciary Committee, had to be postponed for a week. The Democratic chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Patrick Leahy (Vt.), is working on his own version—which retains many of the Ashcroft proposals—with the objective of arriving at a “consensus” version of the bill.

Following are some of the most objectionable provisions of the Justice Department bill as presented by Attorney General Ashcroft:

- Expand the government’s right to conduct secret search-and-seizure operations;
- Expand the INS’s deportation and detention powers;
- Permit authorities to seize computer e-mail and voice-mail without a wiretap court order;
- Allow a nationwide roving wiretap order for all communications by an individual;
- Allow the use of criminal wiretap information for intelligence purposes, and allow use of national-security electronic intercepts for criminal cases (which cannot legally be done now);
- Allow the use in U.S. courts, of foreign government intercepts of U.S. citizens’ phone conversations abroad, obtained without Fourth Amendment protections;
- Allow secret grand jury information to be released to military and intelligence agencies;
- Increase *all* terrorism offenses to carry up to possible life sentences;
- Expand the use of racketeering laws in terrorism cases;
- Permit the Attorney General to issue an “administrative subpoena” for documents and records, in a terrorism or national security case, rather than requiring that the subpoena be issued by a duly convened grand jury, which is subject to judicial review;
- Limit a detained person’s ability to bring a *habeas*

corpus petition, or seek judicial review (an appeal) of a detention order, so that it can be brought only in Federal court in Washington, D.C., no matter where the person is detained.

A number of the above provisions are made all the more dangerous, because of the expansion of the definition of “terrorism” under current law—which could now include civil disobedience, or any act of violence, or threatened violence, not carried out for financial gain.

‘Homeland Security’

Another part of the administration’s overall response to Sept. 11, is the proposal to create a Cabinet-level Office of Homeland Security, to coordinate both preventive counter-terrorist measures, and responses to any terrorist attack.

The *New York Times* reported on Sept. 28, that the administration wants to give the new agency powers to match those of the existing National Security Council. The new “Homeland Security Council” would include the Secretaries of the Justice, Defense, Treasury, and Health and Human

Services Departments, as well as the heads of the FBI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

At this point, the new agency appears to be more of a coordination focal point, rather than a new command structure. But, potentially, such a structure could combine two of the worst features of the Reagan-Bush crisis-management structure which ran what is known as “Iran-Contra” and other covert operations.

These were 1) the National Security Council staff structure, typified by Lt. Col. Oliver North, which ran a “parallel and secret government,” and, 2) the “continuity of government,” or “emergency preparedness” program, responsible for contingency planning for nuclear war, disaster, or mass civil unrest. (This was actually Ollie North’s first assignment in the NSC.) It was reported at the time, that contingency plans existed under this program, to *suspend the Constitution* in a period of national emergency. This program also incorporated the Defense Department’s Civil Disturbance Plan, known as “Operation Garden Plot,” which dates from the 1960s, and is still in effect today.

Who Dunit? Unknown After Two Weeks

Scrap the Sherlock Holmes method of investigation. Scrap the “Clash of Civilizations” mass media targetting of Islamic and other foreign nationals. Such ideological and methodological obsessions have left the United States in a state of confusion about the Sept. 11 attacks, and vulnerable to new ones.

At least seven of the “19 hijacking suspects”—all of whom reportedly died in the four Sept. 11 plane crashes—are possibly *fake or stolen identities*. Protests from some of these still-alive “suspects” has not deterred the FBI, nor the news media, from reporting over and over that these are the suspects. And, since Sept. 27, the release of the photos of the 19 suspects by Attorney General John Ashcroft has only compounded the travesty.

Take the case of “Waleed M. Al Shehri,” whose picture appears on the front page of many U.S. newspapers, as the suspect in the American Airlines Flight 11 that crashed into the World Trade Center. On Sunday, Sept. 23, BBC published statements from Mr. Al Shehri, alive and well, and living in Casablanca, Morocco—and published the *same photo* of him, as released by the FBI days later. Mr. Al Shehri, a Saudi Arabian pilot, protested his innocence, and noted that he left the United States more than one year ago. Another “suspect” is Abdulaziz Al Omari, an engineer

with Saudi Telecoms, who lost his passport in Denver, Colorado.

FBI Director Robert Mueller acknowledged that he *knows* that many of the identities are in question. But the photos were released, creating an atmosphere of what some fear is a deliberate attempt to create a “witch-hunt” in the United States. Indeed, there have already been dozens of anti-Arab attacks, and even a fatal shooting of an Indian Sikh gas station attendant who was mistaken for an Arab.

Accusations in Germany are also creating a scandalous blowback. On Sept. 24, again with great fanfare, the Bush Administration announced a new list of bin Laden-connected groups and individuals whose bank accounts were immediately to be blocked. Prominent on the list was the Hamburg-based import/export firm head Mamoun Darkazanli, who promptly went to the police, explained who he was, and was permitted to go home—there was no basis to arrest him, according to the police.

In Texas, Dr. Al Badr Mohommed Al-Hamzi was held “on suspicion” for a week by the FBI as press accounts linked him to other “suspects” and to credit card charges linked to the Sept. 11 hijackings. Dr. Al-Hamzi had had his credit card number stolen. But the hysteria is rampant.

Highly placed Washington intelligence sources say that the United States—after more than two weeks—does not know who perpetrated this attack, and that the string of false identities, establishing a cover in some cases for years, is a sign of sophistication beyond Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.—*Michele Steinberg*