

# France Is the Epicenter Of the Euro-Earthquake

*Jacques Cheminade, the leader of the LaRouche-associated French political party Solidarity and Progress, was the guest on The LaRouche Show online radio program, on May 31, hosted by Harley Schlanger ([www.larouchepub.com/radio/archive\\_2014.html](http://www.larouchepub.com/radio/archive_2014.html)). Cheminade has run twice for the Presidency in France, but as Schlanger pointed out, his reach extends into North Africa, into the Middle East, as well as into Eurasia. Their discussion was wide-ranging, including on the danger of war, the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and France's relations with China. We excerpt here the portions dealing with the impact of the recent European Parliamentary elections.*

**Cheminade:** ...First, the resistance to the British Empire is piling in. The British Empire is in big trouble, and we have to rejoice about the results in the European elections. Not because of the parties who won, but because of what they had to represent and the issues they had to raise, because the population cannot stand any more the austerity that is imposed upon them.

The second thing, is that we are on the edge here, the verge of an immediate bail-in crisis. The European banks are the more vulnerable, because they have been playing with their accounts more than any other banks in the world. Their equity is weighted by risk, and the evaluation of the risks is by the bank itself! So they strongly underestimated the risk....



EIRNS/Christopher Lewis

*Jacques Cheminade: The European Parliament elections are good news, “not because of the parties who won, but because of what they had to represent and the issues they had to raise, because the population cannot stand any more the austerity that is imposed upon them.”*

**Schlanger:** Lyndon LaRouche mentioned this morning that you have developing now in Europe a potential breakaway from the whole trans-Atlantic policy of austerity and fascism, and from support of a British imperial war. He pointed to France, Germany, and Italy as the three key nations in Europe. How do you see that?

**Cheminade:** The so-called Euroskeptics made a big breakthrough at a European level—not only in France, not only in England—and on both the right and left: Syriza on the left side and the Nigel Farage party [UKIP] and the Marine Le Pen party [National Front] in Great Britain and France. It is a sign of the absolute destabilization of the political landscape.

France is somehow the epicenter of this earthquake. Why? Because it’s a country where the gap between the official political class and the relatively educated people is wider. What you have, as a result of this election: The good news is that the treasonous parties have been shaken. The Gaullists who had betrayed Gaullism, and the Socialists who had betrayed [Jean] Jaurès socialism were more strongly defeated than people would think in the United States or elsewhere.

There was a big article in the most-read

French newspaper *Le Parisien* or *Le Parisien Aujourd’hui*, which is a popular paper, which said, “Shut up! Shut your mouths. You in the Socialist Party, you in the UMP”—which is the so-called Gaullist opposition—“you should shut your mouths. You are full of scandals, you have nothing to say to the French people about how they feel, you are a sideshow, and these sideshows will be stopped and something else should emerge.”

This means that the true questions are raised. And the future, in a sense, is coming to us. And the world of fantasy is exploding.

### The Political Class Has Lost Its Mandate

**Schlanger:** How long can Hollande stay in office, when he is polling around 12-15%?

**Cheminade:** The French were asked whether they wanted him to run in 2017 for the Presidency, and 3% said yes; 12-15% support him because he’s the President, but not because he’s Hollande.

**Schlanger:** So that’s what you mean when you say the political class has lost its luster, has lost its mandate?

**Cheminade:** Because all of them are unstable, on moving sands. They fear getting into power, because they know that if they are in power, they will have to be



A poster from Ireland's Sinn Féin party, campaigning against the EU's Lisbon Treaty in 2009

heroes, and they don't want to be political heroes.

The other good news is that the incestuous relationship between French politicians, bankers, and the media, the press, also has been absolutely broken. The bad news, in a way, is that Marine Le Pen got the votes and not us...

In such a situation, our ideas should win. That's why they have created, in a sense synthetically, Marine Le Pen, starting from a National Front which they controlled since the beginning. And she is in a sense a voice against the system, but also a "spare tire of the system." Because what she spreads is a kind of national monetarism against the supranational monetarism. And you have the same in England with Nigel Farage: He is against the euro; he gives very good speeches against the euro; he denounces the European Union; he attacks those in the EU who went against the Russians in Ukraine. He is very good on these issues. But he says we should leave the EU to maintain the main things that make the British proud of themselves: the City of London and the Commonwealth.

So this idea of a "spare tire of the system" is very important to understand. And for that, you have to go back into French history.

### The British Go After de Gaulle

In 1965, [Charles] de Gaulle won as President. The British did not manage to kill him; they tried to kill him, and he almost died in three or four attempts, but they didn't manage to kill him. The OAS [Secret Army Organization] people—the same who participated in the murder of President Kennedy—tried to kill him, but they did not succeed. So the British had to launch a political operation against him, and they launched François Mitterrand, to take over the Socialist Party. Mitter-



*French President Charles de Gaulle (left) greets German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer at the Paris airport, Sept. 27, 1963. De Gaulle was in favor of a "Europe of the Fatherlands"—meaning sovereign nation-states, unlike the current EU.*

rand compelled de Gaulle to run in a second round in the Presidential election of 1965, and de Gaulle got only 55%. So he was relatively weakened, because people expected him to get 70%.

So Mitterrand was supported by whom? It's very interesting, if you look at it historically. It was an improbable alliance: what we would call the Atlanticist Socialists, people who were on the Anglo-American side; liberal Communists, closer to London than to Moscow; and then the extreme right wing, with the OAS, which supported Mitterrand against de Gaulle! The extreme right wing supported Mitterrand, who was allegedly a leftist, against de Gaulle. And the guy running this was [Jean-Louis] Tixier-Vignancour [independent candidate of the extreme right], and he had as the head of his campaign, a

man named Jean-Marie Le Pen.

**Schlanger:** So Le Pen was part of the Mitterrand apparatus?

**Cheminade:** Not a part of the Mitterrand apparatus, but a kind of buffoon of Mitterrand. Mitterrand played Le Pen against the right-wing opposition all the time, saying, "It's myself or Le Pen."

Some think today that Hollande would like to play the same game in the future, or some Socialist willing to replace Hollande, who would manage to be in the second round of the Presidential elections in 2015, together with Marine Le Pen—and the people against Marine Le Pen would vote for them, as happened with Mitterrand in the past. This won't work! It is a scheme which is absolutely removed from our times.

**Schlanger:** What is it that Marine Le Pen is appealing to? On the one hand, it's the opposition to the EU; but what else is part of the vote for her movement?

**Cheminade:** Against immigration. Like Nigel Farage: He is violently against immigration. But they

say she is against immigration, but not against immigrants. And she changed completely the policy of her father. Her father is still a candidate, and he was elected with a strong vote in southern France, 29%. She got 32% in northern France. But her father, in the past, was a [free-market] ultra-liberal, he was for Thatcher, he was for the worst of the Reagan Administration, and he was absolutely for a decentralized state.

Marine Le Pen completely shifted: Now she's for a centralized state, and she called for Glass-Steagall, of course, and she moved away from main aspects of her father's program. She offered a program which, except for the immigration issue, and the call for nationalism, and not really patriotism—she created something which could be misunderstood, by people who don't really go into depth on the issues, as similar to us.

So, I said a "synthetic" character, because I know that people in the National Front copied our program to cover up their true options. Jean-Claude Martinez, the former vice president of the National Front, who had been assigned to copy-cat our ideas, has now come out against Marine Le Pen, because Marine Le Pen dropped him. Now he says: I was her teacher at law school; her papers were dramatic. She has no greatness; she's vulgar and addicted to a beverage—let's say, a whiskey drinker—but in a world of chihuahuas, bulldogs have a great chance to win.

So you understand how it works. It needs to be understood: The issue is not Farage or Martine Le Pen or whatever, or [Alexis] Tsipras and Syriza on the extreme left. The issue is that something is new in Western Europe, and it is against the British Empire. These people, like Tsipras, like Syriza, like Marine Le Pen, like Beppe Grillo [in Italy], and others, have to go against the British Empire! It's the only way for them to maintain their existence and to get votes. But in doing that, they open the road for true resistance to the British Empire. . . .

## The Gaullist Concept of Europe

**Schlanger:** What did de Gaulle mean when he talked about a Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals"? Because that's very different from what we've seen emerge with the European Union.

**Cheminade:** De Gaulle was strongly attacked by the European bureaucracy. The Hallstein Plan wanted to destroy the sovereignty of the European nations, and particularly in France—this was also in 1965. It was the Hallstein Plan, supported by a lot of people in France, like Raymond Barre, went for that: to debase national

sovereignty. So de Gaulle decided to stop going to the European meetings for six months. This was the policy of the *chaise vide* [empty chair] representing France. So finally they had to accept French sovereignty.

It's interesting to connect that with France being the first country to recognize China, not because they liked Mao Zedong, but because they recognized the power of China in the world, in 1964. So there is the connection. It doesn't express itself politically, but it is very active in economic circles, industrial circles, and culturally.

**Schlanger:** And so when de Gaulle was talking about his conception of Europe, it was based on national sovereignty, but what Lyndon LaRouche always describes as a community of principle of perfectly sovereign nation-states.

**Cheminade:** Well, what de Gaulle said was that patriotism is to love one's country and to try to get the best from the others and to give the best to the others. Nationalism, instead, in his words, is to reject the other countries and to retreat into tradition. And he said: I am not for tradition; I don't like the right-wingers because they hate the people, and I don't like the left because they hate the nations. . . .

The French people at this point are for Europe, but against the European Union. And we made a campaign—because I would not have run in the European elections, because to elect a Parliament for nothing, phew!, it's not worth running. These European elections were organized to be a farce. . . .

Let me go back to this Marine Le Pen issue, because it's interesting. The Russians are now denounced because they welcomed Marine Le Pen; she met [Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitri] Rogozin in Russia, and also the head of the Duma, Sergei Naryshkin. So now they say in France that she is connected to the KGB, and so on and so forth.

And if you see the Russian side, you put your mind on the Russian side, I can understand that. They play it to destabilize the European Union, on the right or left side.

But that's not our job. Our job is to go further, and to create the conditions where the real policy of the Eurasian Land-Bridge and the World Land-Bridge can be created.

And Marine Le Pen keeps attacking the United States—you have to understand that also. She never mentions the British Empire, and she never mentions that France should not pay the debt.

The Russians say that the Americans are controlling the parties favorable to the European Union, so it's normal that we play the other card. And they're right, from their side.

### We Have To Give People a Sense of Optimism

**Schlanger:** In terms of the alternate economic zone coming into existence—the BRIC [Brazil, Russia, India, China] nations, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Russia-China deal—there are a number of things in process. But clearly, what we're seeing is countries that are opting out of the collapse of the trans-Atlantic system. What's your assessment of where this is going?

**Cheminade:** They have to understand who LaRouche is, and what his movement in the United States is, and that Obama is about to be impeached. This is not yet in the minds even of the best people in France. They see it as a very interesting motion, but they don't see it as possible within a relatively short term. They don't see that. I have to bang that into their heads, so that they understand that it's *now* that the future is coming, it's not tomorrow. . . .

If you want to understand what's really happening in the minds of people in Europe: I was in Toulouse. A

lot of people came to me to shake hands, and they said, "Thanks a lot for what you have done for us. But I did not vote for you because it was not practical; I wanted my vote to be useful." But now you have Hollande! Very useful. And they said, "You're right. You're right to mock us." But then a minority says, "I voted for you. Now you should give them hell!"

This minority identifies itself as soon as it sees me in the street. The vote was very small—it was 0.25%. It's funny, but we got the main vote, 1%, in French Polynesia, where we had never been! . . .

The problem in the [organizing in the] field or on the phone when we talk to people, is that people tend to say, "We agree with what you say, but it's impossible. Reality cannot be that good." So you have to give them a sense of optimism, a sense of the future. And the big problem is that French politicians have certain political knowledge, meager historical knowledge, but they absolutely lack any philosophical culture, aesthetic culture, scientific culture. Therefore it leaves the country with a selection in schools based on mathematics and formalism, and the people having an extremely limited notion of what truth, beauty, and human brotherhood mean. . . .

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—Lyndon LaRouche, Feb. 11, 2013



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