

Editorial

Again, the Triple Entente

Ninety years ago, an infamous de facto alliance among Britain, France, and Russia, which came to be known as the Triple Entente, grew out of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France. Foolishly, the French and the Russians allied with the British to destroy Germany. Ironically, both France and Russia were equally targets of British perfidy—as the tragic losses of World War I and World War II demonstrated.

This policy went counter to the earlier, positive thrust by Gabriel Hanotaux, who was French foreign minister in the 1894 government of President Sadi Carnot. That French government also had a policy for building a Franco-Russian alliance, but one aimed at détente with Germany.

Hanotaux proposed a series of great projects which would develop Africa and the Middle East. This was counter to the British policy of colonizing the world. To further his policy, for example, Hanotaux called for the building of railroads. In a speech in 1902 to a Geographical Society, he explained, “Is not a global program to methodically trace, through an international entente throughout Africa, the directions of a transcontinental railroad, utilizing the great rivers . . . uniting the Nile and Congo rivers . . . is this not the most obvious and imminent of possibilities?” It did not turn out to be so: The Carnot-Hanotaux government fell, and with it, the policy of global development, rather than the geopolitical, British-inspired Triple Entente.

Now, once again, it appears that France is rejecting the great vision of Hanotaux. President Jacques Chirac is in grave danger of falling into the same British trap which caused two world wars already in this century.

This was apparent in the role which President Chirac played in opposing the negotiations for a ceasefire in Lebanon, which were initiated by President Clinton. The French government played directly into British hands.

Spokesmen for the Triple Entente policy, such as Washington correspondent for the London *Sunday Telegraph* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, have been quite open on the subject. In November 1994, in response to President Clinton’s increasingly independent foreign

policy, Evans-Pritchard wrote: “Britain will have to find solace in a tentative Triple Entente with France and Russia.”

As dangerous as is this Anglo-French attempt to resurrect the Triple Entente in the Middle East, it is even more dangerous in the case of their efforts to bring Russia into the fold, and to destroy Russian relations with the United States and Germany. For example, both the British and the French are trying to shift the blame for the destruction of the economy of the former Soviet Union onto the United States, while ignoring the role of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and the Thatcher-Bush combination which has been perpetuated by British Prime Minister John Major on behalf of the House of Windsor.

The major problem in U.S. and German policy, is both governments’ continued defense of the so-called free-market reforms. These British-inspired policies have been imposed in the former East bloc, under threat of removal of all International Monetary Fund and World Bank credits if they are not implemented.

The moves by Chirac and Major to ensnare the Russians into a Devil’s alliance against the United States and Germany, are most dangerous. The world cannot afford to go back to a new version of what relations were before the Iron Curtain came down.

It is not that we would face the threat of a repeat of world war, or an immediate threat of nuclear war. But the Russians could resurrect former terrorist capabilities. Such a combination of British- and Russian-controlled irregular warfare could make the world a true Hell.

Still, President Chirac did not initiate the pro-British policy which he is implementing. This policy was set in motion by his predecessor, the late President of France, François Mitterrand, who played the despicable role of British puppet during his years in office. There is still time for the French to repudiate this treason to their own traditions and to their nation’s best interest. The British goal, after all, is not to forge an alliance with France or Russia, but to resurrect the British Empire in the form of a one-world government.