

Traitors to the Nation Are Swept Out of Power

by Nina Ogden and Dean Andromidas

March 1—When the 31st session of the Irish Parliament convenes on March 9, the ballot revolution will have swept away the Fianna Fáil ruling party, which had run the Republic of Ireland for many of the last eight decades. The Irish population has decisively rejected its government's policies of brutal sellouts to the international bankers, the IMF, and the European Union, and is demanding a decisive change for national sovereignty.

But the most stunning development of the election, as the British press has nervously noted, was the dramatic results for the one party which opposed the bank bailout imposed on Ireland by the EU/IMF combination—the nationalist Sinn Féin party. Sinn Féin, under the leadership of former Northern Ireland leader Gerry Adams, trebled its numbers in the Parliament (the Dáil), from 4 to 14 seats, and is poised to lead the offensive by the opposition.

Sinn Féin ran its election campaign under the theme of “Burn the bondholders,” insisting that the nation of Ireland let the private banks pay for their own mistakes, rather than saddling the Irish people with a bailout. Its electoral offensive emboldened the other anti-bailout parties, and Gerry Adams has vowed to continue it.

Lyndon LaRouche welcomed the developments, noting the common history of the foundations of the American Revolution and the Irish fight against the British Empire, from the time of the 1688 invasion by William of Orange. In effect, he argued, the long hand of Irish history has reached out to bring down the traitors of the Fianna Fáil, who had sold out the people of Ireland to their British imperial enemy.

Inter-Alpha versus Ireland

It was the British Empire's Inter-Alpha Group of banks which chose Ireland as the scene for the battle which led to this revolution. Faced with utter bankruptcy, due to the collapse of its speculative bubble, the London-centered international banks demanded that



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Gerry Adams' Sinn Féin party, which won significant gains in the Irish elections, ran his campaign on the theme, “Burn the bondholders.”

the people pay—specifically, the people of Ireland. As the blowout approached, in the Fall of 2010, enormous pressure was put by the EU, the IMF, and the banks themselves, on the Irish government, to adopt a program of massive bailout for their bankrupt private banks, most especially, the Inter-Alpha's Allied Irish Bank, as well as Anglo-Irish and others.

The Irish population did not give in easily. Over 100,000 people demonstrated in the streets of Dublin, in freezing weather Nov. 27 (the equivalent of 7 million demonstrators in the United States). And polls began to trace the rapid and stormy rise of the Sinn Féin party there, hitherto, a small minority, which was the only party to reject the package, at once, and in toto.

Through bribery and treachery, however, the ruling Fianna Fáil party—along with its coalition partner, the Greens—capitulated to the bankers' demands. They rammed through an agreement to a deal, which is worthy of comparison to that forced on Germany at Versailles in 1918. Under that deal, 10% of Ireland's GDP was to be given over to the bondholders, annually, by 2014, on top of 10% thrown down the same sewer by five similar such programs over the past two years. And another 10% of the average Irish family's income would be taxed away for that purpose, on top of 10% per annum over the past two years.

And all for what? To indemnify the foreign creditors of Ireland's banks, who gambled and lost, due to their own stupidity and greed, on mortgage bubbles and other more lurid swindles, just as in the United States.

Sinn Féin's Leadership

At the beginning of the Irish crisis, as details of the rotten bailout deal began to leak out, Sinn Féin took the moral leadership. Gerry Adams resigned his seat in the Northern Ireland Parliament and announced that he would lead a full slate of Sinn Féin candidates in the Republic of Ireland. While all other parties were crawling on their knees to the IMF and EU, Sinn Féin announced that "not one red cent should be paid to bail out the banks." The Sinn Féin candidates campaigned against every aspect of the austerity budget agreed upon by the government and the financial empire running the bailout.

The election campaign was tarnished by filthy operations against Sinn Féin, and Adams, in particular, but the Irish voters were not fooled.

When it was announced that Adams had won on the first ballot, he was hoisted on the shoulders of his supporters, and declared, "We went out in this election, we set out our stall very, very clearly. I think the votes across the state show a significant amount of people support the position we have taken up."

"We went out with a very, very clear manifesto in terms of core, genuine republican values which are about upholding citizenship, looking after the most vulnerable, making sure that people have their entitlements," Adams said. "That's what we're about. We're also a united Ireland party. We're an All-Ireland party."

Quoting from the pamphlet by James Connelly, who was tied to a chair and executed by firing squad for his role in the 1916 Easter Rising against the British Empire, Adams said, "Okay, so this isn't just about who wins what, and who tops the poll, and who doesn't; this is about actual sacrifice in terms of ongoing reconquest of Ireland by the people of Ireland."

The Next Step

The overwhelming victors in the election were the Fine Gael party (generally seen as "conservative"), with 76 seats of the 166 total. The Labour Party came next, with a record 37 seats. The Socialist Party and the People Before Profit Alliance each won 2 seats, and the Independents, 15. The "ruling" Fianna Fáil went from 78 to 20, with only 1 seat in the capital, Dublin. The Greens were wiped out of Parliament.

Sinn Féin will be joined by other anti-bailout parties in the new opposition, including the United Left Alliance and Independents. The leader of the Socialist Party, Joe Higgins, who had challenged European Commission president José Barroso in the Euro Parliament, over the bailout package, was elected, as were others who agree with the intention to "burn the bondholders, save the people."

As of this writing negotiations have begun for a new governing coalition of an impossible group of strange bedfellows Fine Gael and the Labour Party. Enda Kenny of the Fine Gael is set to be the next Prime Minister. He has already gone to the EU, begging that the interest rates agreed to in the bailout be lowered. He was rejected before, and it's unlikely his plea will be accepted now.

As it announced during the election campaign, Sinn Féin Members of Parliament, as well as many Independents now elected, are likely to call for a referendum on the bailout under Article 27 of Ireland's Constitution, which allows for a referendum when Ireland is faced with a national crisis. The Constitutional referendum has been invoked twice before in Ireland's history.

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