

self-destructive geopolitics with a new paradigm, whereby the international community works together to develop all of Southwest Asia and Africa.

The obvious approach for doing that is the extension of China's New Silk Road and the proposal of the Schiller Institute for expanding this program into the World Land-Bridge to bring peoples together, and thus overcoming the conditions which are the fundamental source of the refugee crisis.

In this way we would not only put our own economy back on the track of economic growth, but even more importantly, we would can stop the collapse into total barbarism and win back our humanity.

## 'Austerity Suicides' In Italy Hit 560

by Liliana Gorini

Dec. 26—The case of Luigino D'Angelo, the 68-year-old pensioner from Civitavecchia, near Rome, who committed suicide Nov. 28 after he lost all of his savings to the bailed-in Banca Etruria, has become world-famous. What called special attention to this tragedy was that, before committing suicide, D'Angelo had written a letter, found weeks later, accusing his bank of stealing all his savings, after having assured him that the "subordinated bonds" he had bought were safe.

But Luigino D'Angelo was by no means the first victim of the economic crisis, and of the austerity imposed on Italy by the European Union, nor will he be the last, unless Italy decides to leave the European Union and go for Glass-Steagall, as Movisol, LaRouche's movement in Italy, has been proposing since 2009.

Between 2012 and 2015 there were in total 560 "economic suicides" in Italy, as the Italian press calls them, people who

committed suicide for economic reasons. They were mostly entrepreneurs in northern Italy, who had built a family business, a medium-sized company, which was the pride of their lives, and were ashamed of being forced to shut it down, either because they could not pay their tax debt, or could not get any more bank credit. In the first six months of 2015 alone, there were 121 suicides.

In 2012 there were even cases of self-immolation by individuals overwhelmed by their economic difficulties.

Most of the suicides have taken place in the North-east of Italy, the former industrial triangle which used to be the richest area economically and socially. Twenty-five percent of the suicides occurred here. The second highest concentration (20%) was in the impoverished South. Forty-five percent of suicides have been by entrepreneurs and managers of companies, but 42% of them were among the unemployed.

Among the unemployed, 12.4% were younger than 34 years.

ISTAT, the National Institute of Statistics in Rome, stopped counting the suicides in 2012, claiming that it is too difficult to keep track of them. But ISTAT did release other relevant data. By August of 2015 the number of deaths in Italy increased by 11.3%, an increase in mortality which had not been registered since the last war.

"It is a shocking number," wrote Prof. Gian Carlo Blangiardo on the demographic website Neodemos. "We have to go back to 1943, or even earlier than that, to the years between 1915 and 1918, in order to find a similar pattern." ISTAT does not explain this dramatic increase in deaths.



Russia Today

Italian students march against austerity in Rome on Oct. 9, 2015.