

Destabilization Spreads Over Europe, Both East and West

A dramatic wave of instability is sweeping through Europe, East and West, threatening to topple governments, and creating the danger of Bonapartist, or even fascist, regimes. The primary responsibility for this upheaval, particularly in the West, can be attributed to the Maastricht Treaty, which has imposed a regime of ever-deepening austerity on the nations of Western Europe. The Eastern states, while not under Maastricht, have suffered from its results, due to the lack of orientation toward economic development on the part of the industrialized nations of the West, and the International Monetary Fund itself.

On top of this fundamental problem, the nations of Eastern Europe are also the victims of geopolitical maneuvers by those forces in the West, who are committed to stamping out the emergence of any healthy, developing nation-state, and are more than willing to use their assets in the East in order to launch attacks on the second-most-powerful state on the world scene, Russia.

The significance of this destabilization is twofold. On the one hand, it makes it clear that European governments will not be the source of diplomatic initiatives, to prevent the schemes for worldwide warfare that are being put forward by the Synarchist financial oligarchy, primarily under the sponsorship of the Cheney-Bush Administration. For not only are the current governments demonstrably unstable, but there is absolutely no visible mass political force within any of the nations of Europe, East or West, which represents a sane alternative economic and political policy.

Thus, only within the United States, where Lyndon LaRouche is acting to shape an FDR-vectored political force to replace the Cheney-Bush Administration, is a leadership with the ideas and power to act poised to emerge.

On the other hand, the very lack of an alternative policy, to the concerted economic deprivations which are being carried out against all the nations on the continent, represents the danger that Europe will become a source of further destabilization for the rest of the world. This is particularly clear in

the stirrings of renewed ethnic conflict in the Balkans, and in the calls for a racist “new Crusade” among radicalized masses in Spain and Italy.

We review the latest developments country by country, from West to East.

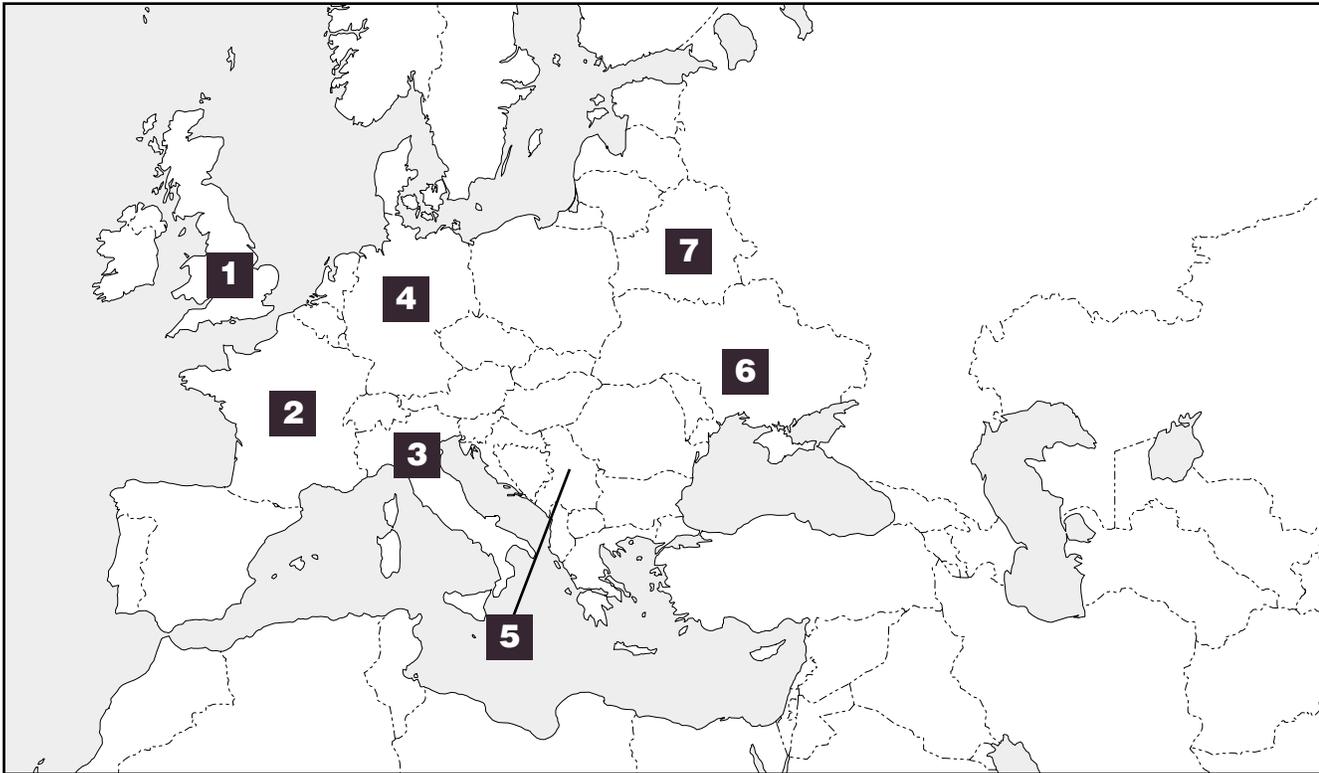
Strategic Map

1. Great Britain: Over 1 million government workers held the largest strike since the 1926 general strike, on March 28, to protest Tony Blair’s attempt to increase the retirement age.

Local council workers, including teachers, traffic police, museum workers, librarians, and crematory workers, went on a one-day strike over efforts to renege on the “85 rule,” which states that a worker can retire with full pension if his or her age plus years of work adds up to 85. Instead, town and city councils have changed the law so that it only applies to workers born before 1953.

This, the first of what may be several strikes, comes before the May local elections, in which Labour is expected to fail miserably. The “Winter of Discontent” strikes in 1970 helped force Labour out. Today, Prime Minister Tony Blair is being actively pushed to the door, including by Establishment leaders like the London *Economist*.

2. France: Three million people demonstrated on March 28, in protest against the “First Employment Contract” (CPE). While the final count is not yet established, the national day of action and strike against the CPE, which would allow employers to fire young workers without cause, was a resounding success. It was double the size of the demonstration on March 18. But it also means a level of mobilization comparable to the demonstrations against the Juppé Plan for social security reform in 1995, when a month-long transport



strike paralyzed Paris, and in 2003, with the very broad protest against the Balladur cuts in retirement pay.

The demonstrations were accompanied by a national day of strikes, followed by massive strikes in the education system with 66% of primary school teachers, and 55% of high school teachers out. All public transport systems were on strike, with 30-50% of all public transport modes shut down nationwide. Air France was also on strike, as were sections of the private sector, including metal workers, high-tech companies, and banks.

So far, however, the government of Dominique de Villepin has refused to discuss rescinding the law, which he pushed through by bypassing normal discussion procedures in the Parliament. Presidential elections loom in 2007.

3. Italy: The government of Silvio Berlusconi, which is fighting for re-election in the poll scheduled for April 9-10, is expected to lose to the Unione coalition led by former Prime Minister Romano Prodi. The election campaign features bizarre alliances on both sides, including the inclusion of Benito Mussolini's granddaughter, Alessandra Mussolini, on Berlusconi's slate, but is likely to be decided on the question of the economic collapse of the country. For, while Berlusconi's government has created a massive number of jobs (heavily low-wage), living standards have plummeted, and the Maastricht Treaty has made it impossible for the government to launch the necessary infrastructure projects.

4. Germany: Public-sector workers have been on

strike since Feb. 6, the first time in 14 years, to protest plans to increase the work week from 38.5 to 40 hours without any pay increase. Strikes spread to 10 of Germany's 16 states, and talks affecting some 900,000 state workers were broken off March 11. Public-sector doctors are among the strikers. Ver.di, Europe's second-largest labor union, representing 2.4 million workers, said local and regional authorities will use longer hours to cut as many as 250,000 jobs. (See Helga Zepp-LaRouche's leaflet below.)

5. Serbia and other former Yugoslav republics: The murder of former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in the Hague, coming immediately before important negotiations on the status of the province of Kosovo, and scheduled changes in the government structure of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has heightened tensions in this area, still economically prostrate following the British-sparked geopolitical wars of the 1990s.

6. Ukraine: The result of the March 26 Parliamentary election, has done nothing to resolve the bitter fights within this nation, the target of the Synarchist-sponsored "Orange Revolution" of 2004-05. (See the article below.)

7. Belarus: Despite the efforts by Synarchist agents to launch a destabilization of the recently re-elected Lukashenka government, the Belarus situation appears relatively stable, especially due to the fact that its government refused to carry out IMF shock therapy against the population. (See the interview below.)