The PSI—Italy’s party of terrorism

One of the most outrageous results of the fraudulent Italian elections of June 3 and 4 is that the Italian Socialist Party still exists. After being exposed from top to bottom by the European Labor Party’s (ELP) candidates as the mother of Italian terrorism, the PSI not only still exists, but actually registered a slight gain in its percentage of the national vote.

The PSI is really the pathetic remnant of what was once a real political party; as we shall show, it now consists of a crew of completely manipulated British puppets and collaborators of the oligarchical backers of international terrorism.

The history of Professor Antonio (Toni) Negri is a case in point. The formerly respectable left theoretician and political science professor at Padua University, Negri is now behind bars in Rome, accused of masterminding the Red Brigades’ kidnapping and murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro. Throughout his career, Negri has been nurtured, protected and in some cases paid, by ranking members of the PSI.

In 1955, Negri entered the University of Padua, where he became the protégé of Norberto Bobbio. Bobbio, who entered the PSI through the postwar Action Party, is one of the best-known terrorist apologists in the country. He was among the first (1956) to accuse Italian government institutions of being “violent” and “repressive,” thus creating a foundation for future terrorist belief-structures. He was also the patron of Francesco Alberoni, the sociology professor at Trento University—birthplace of the Red Brigades under Alberoni’s tutelage.

In 1958 Negri left the Christian Democracy (DC) and joined the PSI after being promised a city council seat, which he took in 1960.

But Negri’s real plunge into the morass of left “revolutionary” theorizing began in 1960 with the appearance of Quaderni Rossi (Red Notebooks—QR).

QR’s editorial board was crowded with PSI members and held meetings in the offices of the PSI daily, Avanti. It was founded by the PSI’s number two man, Raniero Panzieri.

During July of 1962 in Turin, QR was accused of having organized the provocations during a union demonstration that led to police violence. However, Panzieri and QR were also denounced by the PCI, not only for being the provocateurs during these events, but as being linked to the fascist group Pace e Libertà (Peace and Liberty), led by the monarchist Edgardo Sogno.

QR in 1965 began to use the “sociological” approach to class struggle. The April 1965 issue is called “The Socialist Intervention into the Workers’ Struggle,” and revolves around a seminar held in Turin in September 1964 by Panzieri and others. The seminar was concerned with the creation of files and questionnaires that would shed light on the real “feelings” of the working class. The procedure followed was a series of “interviews with workers” in which, in addition to demographic information such as age, sex, family conditions etc., the workers were asked to comment on their jobs, their workplaces, their bosses, their unions, their political parties, international issues and working class struggle. The final question was: Is technological development bad for employment; if yes, then can technology ever be useful?

The real aim of such “Marxist sociology” was to develop “personality profiles” of the industrial workers in order to break them out of the actual working-class institutions, the Italian Communist Party (PCI) and its allied union, the CGIL, which had long dominated the northern industrial belt.

The Socialists’ QR paved the way for the radicalization of Toni Negri and others who were then deployed on a string of such rags, each more radical than the last. The PSI sent Negri on to form—with Oreste Scalzone (now jailed for involvement in the Red Brigades) and Franco Piperno (fugitive wanted in the Moro case)—the political group Potere Operaio on a national scale in 1968. This group was put through an engineered split in 1973 over the question of how to organize working class violence. Scalzone and Piperno were in favor of immediate insurrection. Negri’s alleged belief was that the time for revolution was not yet ripe, that what was needed was a period of “spontaneous” mass violence that would then spread and the revolution would be born.

Negri was deployed to found the so-called “Workers’ Autonomy”—Autonomia Operaia—and used his classes to recruit future terrorists. Some of them were Sandro Serafini, Guido Bianchini, Alisa del Re—all now under arrest.

The PSI defends terrorists

The PSI and its press organs are among the primary outlets for the poisonous ideological defense of terrorism as an inevitable “sociological phenomenon” that must simply be understood and put up with. That is the premise behind PSI Secretary General Bettino Craxi’s espousal of a capitulation to the Red Brigades during the Moro kidnap. Craxhttps://www.eir.org/eirnews/1979-06-12()

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switched to advocating a “unilateral humanitarian gesture” on the part of the government: that of simply releasing one of the incarcerated Red Brigaders and hoping Moro would be released in return.

Meanwhile, Craxi assigned leading PSIer Luigi Ferrari Bravo to research the juridical means of justifying an “exchange of political prisoners.” Luigi is the brother of Luciano Ferrari Bravo, a professor of political science at Padua University who was arrested April 7 along with Negri.

After the arrest of Negri et al., the statements of leading PSI members revealed their purpose of creating adverse conditions for such a cleanup. Craxi demanded that the arresting judges produce “concrete proof” of Negri’s guilt; PSI member Landolfi lamented that the arrests would only “exacerbate street fights”; Giacomo Mancini, a major PSI leader and former general secretary, expressed his “incredulity” and “alarm” that the arrests may have a political purpose behind them.

Most incredible of all is the response of Norberto Bobbio—the epitome of the howls of outrage from the ideological apologists for the Red Brigades in defense of “freedom of thought.” Said Bobbio, “Among the theoreticians of the new left, he (Negri) is one of the most culturally advanced. He is a serious and profound scholar. It is very difficult, if not absurd, to try to establish a connection between thought and praxis. . . If one were to try to do this, no one could any longer maintain any revolutionary theories; and furthermore, it is not only Negri who supports such theories.”

Exactly. Bobbio’s own son Luigi is one of the founders of the ultraleft Lotta Continua. Bobbio Sr. was a collaborator of the review Telos, which in turn gave rise to both Potere Operaio and Lotta Continua, and has published the works of every terrorist apologist from Jean-Paul Sartre to Noam Chomsky to Lucio Colletti, the PSI “philosopher.”

**PSI terrorist mafia**

The PSI being little more than a loose collection of

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**The terrorist career of Toni Negri**

- 1933: Negri is born in Padua. His mother is Aldina Malvezzi. The Malvezzi are a Black Guelph family tracing their ancestry back to the times of the Roman emperor Vespasian. During the Renaissance, the Malvezzi were among the most bloodthirsty of the Guelph faction in exterminating the humanist Ghibellines.
- 1955: Negri enters the University of Padua, where he enjoys the patronage of Norberto Bobbio, a PSI Central Committee member, having migrated to the PSI from the Action Party. Bobbio later acquires for Negri a university chair, despite the opposition of then Education Minister Luigi Gui.
- 1958: Negri joins the PSI, where he meets many of his future collaborators, among them Mario Isneghi, now deputy secretary of the PSI federation and professor of the history of journalism at Padua University. Isneghi employed Negri as an “advisor.”
- 1960: Negri is elected to the city council on the PSI slate. He also holds stock in the Marsilio publishing house, which is owned by PSI member G. De Michelis. Marsilio publishes terrorist literature such as the history of anarchism. Negri marries Paola Meo of another noble family, an ancient Venetian Guelph family.
- 1960: Negri begins work with Quaderni Rossi, which was founded by the number two man in the PSI, Raniero Panzieri. QR’s editorial board meets at the offices of Avanti, the newspaper of the PSI. QR and a string of other magazines create a milieu for terrorist recruitment.
- 1963: Negri founds Potere Operaio of the Veneto-Emilia area, a “Marxist” group mostly concerned with creating confrontations between FIAT workers and management.
- 1964: Negri helps found Classe Operaia, organ of Veneto-Emilia Potere Operaio.
- 1968: Potere Operaio goes national, founded by Negri, Oreste Scalzone and Franco Piperno (now a fugitive wanted in the Moro case).
- 1973: Potere Operaio “splits” over an “organizational question.” Negri prefers the spontaneous mass violence, while Scalzone and Piperno are for a more “elitist, Leninist” organized violence.
- 1973-79: Negri turns the Political Science Department of the University of Padua into a stronghold of the “organized autonomi” and uses his university post to “theorize” on the armed overthrow of the state.
- 1977: Negri is sent to Paris to avoid being jailed for his part in the Bologna riots.
- 1979: Negri is arrested for his role in the kidnapping and assassination of former Italian Premier Aldo Moro.
regional “padroni” and their Mafia organizations, it is natural that these dirty networks should connect up with organized terrorism. The connections are quite concrete: terrorism is funded by receipts from drug-running and pushing, and from the kidnapping industry, both of which are enterprises that are under the control of the PSI in two regions at least.

One of these is Calabria in southern Italy, the domain of the ancient Giacomo Mancini. Mancini was a teacher of Franco Piperno, the now-wanted fugitive in the Moro case. Mancini got him his chair of physics at the University of Cosenza. Mancini was one of the protesters against the PCI’s attempts to “criminalize dissent” after the PCI organ L’Unità attacked Piperno and the autonomy; and L’Unità’s response was to bring up the links between terrorism and the mafia (Nov. 5, 1978). In fact, Mancini’s Mafia links go back to 1958, when he aided U.S. Mafioso Joe Adonis in uniting the Sicilian and Calabrian Mafias to organize precisely the drug and kidnapping trades for terrorist support.

Bettino Craxi, the secretary general of the party, consolidated a great deal of Mafioso power into the PSI in the early 1960s, when together with “left” PSI leader Riccardo Lombardi he took over the city of Milan and proceeded to make a fortune in real estate speculation. Meanwhile, every Socialist mayor of the city of Milan including Craxi has been a member of the Democratic Union of the Friends of Israel, the Italian branch of the Israeli secret service, the Mossad.

Finally there is the case of the “Lombardian” socialist Michele Achille, who was accused by the police of heading up the kidnap enterprise “Anonima Sequestri.” The story was carried in the Italian press for one day, then disappeared.

—Mary Sonnenblick

**Toni Negri’s supporters in the U.S.**

On April 7, 1979, Italian authorities arrested over 20 intellectuals and professors on the charge of complicity in the Red Brigade assassination of former Italian Premier Aldo Moro. Since then the Italian authorities have broadened their investigation and two weeks ago, in an effort to aid American authorities, they published a list of those academics in various sociology, history and other university departments who are at the core of the environmentalist and terrorist “New Left” in the United States.

Also since April 7, the American collaborators of those arrested—like Toni Negri of the University of Padua—have panicked. Scrambling to win international support for the Italian terrorist controllers, they have formed a “Committee Against Repression in Italy,” pushing the myth that Italian terrorism is a “sociological phenomenon.”

Among the primary supporters of the committee are:

**The staff of Zero Work magazine**, a splitoff of *Telos* magazine which listed as contributing authors Toni Negri and others arrested. *Telos* played an important role in developing the ideas and personnel that went into creating the American New Left project, especially Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

On the editorial board of Zero Work is Ferruccio Gambino, sought by Italian police and hiding underground, and John Merrington, who cosponsored a conference in Italy with Negri during the summer of 1976. When Negri visited New York this past summer for what he described as a social visit, he stayed at the home of editorial members of Zero Work.

**Stanley Aronowitz**, lately of the New American Movement (NAM), one of the major organizations promoting antinuclear and other environmental causes. Aronowitz was behind the formation of the Institute for Policy Studies terrorist grouping, the People’s Bicentennial Coalition. The Institute, through its paper, *In These Times*, has tried to distance itself from support for Negri and Company; it would make all too public the Institute’s connection to terrorist organizations in the United States.

**Splitoffs from the “Trotskyist” Fourth International**. The Center for Marxist Studies, for instance, has sponsored meetings in support of Negri with New York University Professor Bertell Ollman acting as spokesman. Fourth Internationalist splitoff Martin Glaberman is leading a pack of Detroit-based left groups in defense of his friend Negri.

**Paul Sweezy**, a former officer in the Office of Strategic Services.

**Harry Magdoff**, an associate of Sweezy’s at *Monthly Review*.

**Howard Zinn**, the Boston-based New Left intellectual and friend of “linguist” Noam Chomsky.

**George Wald**, Harvard University environmentalist and defender of terrorist operations in the East bloc.

**Victor Rabinowitz**, a member of the National Lawyer’s Guild. Rabinowitz and his law partners have served as attorneys for many terrorists. He has the added distinction of being president of the Rabinowitz Foundation which, with the Stern Foundation, is a major funder of environmentalism and the New Left.