

InSight

by Nora Hamerman

The nation-state revived

The current issue of the London *Economist* contains an exceptionally revealing document. Peter Jay's paper, "Europe's Ostrich and America's Eagle," unveils what our contributing editor Criton Zoakos has aptly referred to as an "unveiling of some of the less sordid mental processes now racing inside the heads of those policy makers who have brought the world to its present crisis."

Peter Jay, some may recall, is the son-in-law of former British Prime Minister Jim Callaghan and was U.K. Ambassador to Washington under Callaghan's government. In the *Economist*, he laments that what he calls "the West" may not survive the re-emergence of "nationalist" tendencies in Europe.

To reduce Jay's strategic argument to a nutshell, if a "European Reich" based on the European Monetary System emerges in the 1980s, then what he slanderously calls "isolationist" forces will come back to prominence in the United States. And, he points out, this would be the first time since the "isolationists" "lost their battle to Churchill and Roosevelt in 1941," at the Atlantic Charter conference off the coast of Newfoundland.

Americans, especially American conservatives, will be astounded to discover what the gamemasters of London, who drafted the Atlantic Charter in 1941, meant by "the West," or, in their favorite phraseology, the "Western order, liberal and universal." Peter Jay defines it at some length, reminding us that "unbridled nationalism" was "the world's most dangerous force," to be subjected to a world government under which "economic nationalism" would be crushed.

Out of this philosophy, Jay affirms, were born the OECD, NATO, the United Nations, and "the

Bretton Woodstwins," the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Hence under the guise of defense from the "Soviet menace," the "West" has been nothing but a liberal organization of affairs, whose principal enemy from the outset was the nation-state. This includes NATO, the purported champion of our national freedoms!

Now let us view the question from the vantage point of the crumbling of the liberal world-order in the current Carter administration debacle. From the China card, shattered by Deng Xiaoping's wily combination of "America and Russia card" strategies; to support for "Islamic Fundamentalism" which was just discredited for good by Khomeini; to the ashes of Camp David; to an economic policy that has collapsed into runaway inflation, Washington's liberal policies have fallen into a shambles.

What Ambassador Jay fears is that increasing numbers of Americans will see the way out of fiasco precisely in the European nationalism he decries. French President Giscard has reawakened in the Middle East and Africa the long-dormant aspirations to scientific progress that had suffocated under Anglo-American domination. As editor Zoakos underlines in a recent strategic document, since Plato, the sovereign nation-state has been the institution through which "the greatest number of people" were organized around "great moral goals." The United States itself was a very special nation among nations, established as a constitutional republic to foster the creative potential of its citizenry and to help build similar sovereign republics.

If the U.S. "nationalist genius" links up to "nationalist genius" of the European Monetary System, all that will suffer is the liberal world order of the Atlantic Charter.