

Centuries of Swiss expertise: usury, Jacobinism, 'one worldism,' and dirty money

Switzerland, in the middle of devastated Europe, came out of the war on top. The Masson-Guisan-de Rougemont deployment had succeeded.

Who was it that was so shamelessly—in fact, in typical Calvinist or Evangelical fashion, self-righteously—rubbing bellies with the SS murderers and ensuring their metastasis in the postwar, contemporary world? It was the usurers of Geneva, Basel, and Zürich, the old military power of Berne, the Swiss patrician caste which had been set up as a “little Venice” in the 16th century by Venice and Genoa, a north-bound dispatching center at a time when the world’s center of gravity shifted from the Mediterranean-to-Baltic arc to the Atlantic world.

Leurs Excellences de Berne, Ces Messieurs de Geneve

By 1387 A.D., the “Franchises of Geneva,” the constitution of the city-state, had already legalized the pagan practice of usury, and indeed enshrined the principle of usury in the law of the land:

“Ditto, that if any cleric or lay man that be a usurer or an other citizen or inhabitant of the city passes away and dies, whether testament be made or not: what goods he had at such a time that he died must not and can not by us or our other officers whosoever they be, be taken and detained and neither because of such usury can or could a listing of such wealth be drawn but by the inheritor even though he be himself a usurer and he can take and appropriate the goods of the said dead man without incurring impediment nor difficulty of any sort. . . .

“Ditto, that no one for cause of usury publicly done by anyone so ever, bourgeois, citizen, cleric, or lay, or man or woman, may be by us or successors, or clerks or other officers, persecuted, accused, charged or in any manner molested; nor his or her goods seized, sequestered, brought into our hands or part-confiscated; nor seize the goods or he or she when dead nor capture; nor in any other manner of claim. . . .”

Geneva is taken here as representative of Switzerland at large, or of the patrician elites that have run that country for centuries. We will unfold the history of Geneva as a case study, whose general principles obtain equally for Berne, Basel, Zürich, Lausanne, and lesser towns: it is the Swiss

system that matters, and for purposes of contemporary strategic analysis, it is the system rather than any of its individual embodiments that should be taken into account.

Even before becoming the “Protestant Rome,” as it was to be called under John Calvin, Geneva was a center of legalized usury. While it had served as a pivot of trade and transportation during the Roman Empire, for reason of its exceptional geographic position, and received the Imperial dignity of “city” as early as 350 A.D., it was under the first Burgundian Empire that Geneva first came to prominence. By 1032, it was a Holy Roman Imperial City, and led a secular fight to break loose of the grip of the Counts of Savoy and the Bishop of Geneva. By the end of the 13th century, Geneva had 2,000 inhabitants, and started developing an extremely successful trade fair, for which purpose it was built up by the “Lombard” (North Italian) bankers. By 1450, the commune boasted 15,000 inhabitants.

The financiers of Genoa were in the process of making it a major station in their international network, which dominated world finance. Genoa’s Giustiniani family (one of the top Venice-Genoa families) opened shop in 1464, as well as the Grimaldis of Genoa (now ruling Monaco), the Pazzis, and others. By then, the great humanist king of France Louis XI was already in a pitched battle against Geneva’s gold-draining operations against the kingdom. Having been commercially beaten by the French king and held to ransom after a military defeat, Geneva signed an association (*combourgeoisie*) with Berne, then a world power in trade, banking and military affairs, and Fribourg.

But until the arrival of John Calvin, there were essentially no “native” Geneva bankers. It is only when the Council of the 200, the patrician families of the town, who had designed a constitutional model of oligarchical republic directly modelled on that of Venice, adopted the Reformation and called in the French “Ayatollah” Calvin, until then an agent provocateur against the ecumenical efforts of Erasmus of Rotterdam and his European humanist network. Calvin set up a theocratic dictatorship, with a feared Gestapo accustomed to burning people at the stake whose sole crime had been to question some trivial utterance by the Ayatollah.

When the Protestants fled France to escape religious persecution, first in the 1550s and in a second wave after 1685,

a new impetus was given to Geneva: dynasties such as the Mallets, the de Neuflices, the Lullins, the de la Rives, the Andrés, opened business, as well as refugees from Italy, whose family names still loom large in the Geneva caste system today: the Turretinis, Burlamacchis, Calandrins, and others. They engaged in extensive financial relations with northern Italian bankers, and soon became their correspondents—at a time when the oligarchical masters of Venice and Genoa were transferring their wealth out of Italy and relocating the family fortunes (*fondi*) toward the north of Europe.

The 17th century saw the prosperity of a cluster of many-times-intermarried families, Bordier, Darien, Lombard, Odier, Mirabaud, Pictet, Lullin, Ferrier, Saladin, Boissier, Turretini, Mallet, Tronchin: Thus Geneva was becoming the vicar of the *fondi*, and becoming banker to the world.

Geneva was a major shareholder in the Dutch and English East India Companies, in the Bank of England and the Bank of Amsterdam, and its trading arms reached out to Muscovy, Barbary, the Ottoman Empire. Under the protection of the Geneva citizenship, Protestant bankers returned in droves to Paris, and established a virtual financial dictatorship—they held three-fourths of the French national debt at the death of King Louis XIV. Each patrician family had one or several members established in Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, Genoa, Cadiz, London, Amsterdam. In 1750, Pictet opened shop in New Orleans. Shortly thereafter, there also arose the Gallatin Bank of New York, now known under the name of Manufacturers Hanover Trust. A spider-net of financial and intelligence contacts was established which vastly enhanced Geneva's weight in banking, insurance, reinsurance, and colonial and maritime trade.

It is Geneva that pioneered modern actuarial methods; a Pictet published in 1746 "An Essay on the Duration of Human Life, When It Adduced the Manner of Determining the Life Annuities Both Simple Ones and in Tontine." Extremely sophisticated methods of risk-spreading were developed, along with advanced methods of financial looting: Geneva was skimming the wealth of nations, and manipulating them into developing colonial policies on its own behalf. Thus France developed its triangular trade in the Atlantic and its large Caribbean sugar plantations at the initiative of the Genevans, who acted through their Protestant banker and trader correspondents in Marseilles, Bordeaux, Nantes, and so forth.

Geneva played a prime role in the preparation, the outbreak, and the unfolding of the French Revolution. First, citizen of Geneva Jean-Jacques Rousseau, recruited to the Venetian intelligence service during his stint as French Embassy Secretary in Venice, became a linchpin of the vast brainwashing operation known as the "Enlightenment." His job was to provide rationalizations for mob violence, and a fascist theory of the state, known as the "Social Contract," whose best model was the Venetian republic. With the plebeians thus in good hands, Geneva sent banker Jacques Necker to become France's finance minister in 1786. Necker finished

off the king's ailing treasury, by issuing an unprecedented amount of high-interest debt. When bankruptcy loomed, Necker proposed a violent "austerity" cure, and was ousted by the king; but the mob imposed his recall in 1789. A 1795 speech by one of the members of the Directoire in Paris, Cambon, provides insight into the destabilizing role of the Genevans: "It is perhaps to the existence of these loans that we owe the commencement of the Revolution; the government was squeezed and could not honor the commitments it had incurred, convened the Estates General in order to address these commitments. Portfolios were stuffed with claims against the royal treasury; the owners of these claims, fearing the loss of their capital, put on the revolutionary mask and gathered at the Amis de la Republique [club]; thenceforth, the Palais-Royal [the residence of Philippe Duke of Orleans] became the place where patriots congregated, and from that hotbed arose the sacred fire that set the souls ablaze on July 14 [Bastille Day]. . . ."

From Britain, Lord Shelburne directed the destabilization of France, and his chief aide, de Romilly, was a Genevan. Mallet du Pan in London directed the British intelligence effort against France, where the ever-present archetype of corruption, Talleyrand, was paid by Geneva. In the young United States, Genevan agents such as Gallatin, Iselin, Prevost, André, and Mallet, were subverting the nation especially through its finances, as Anton Chaitkin has recently documented (see the *Campaigner* magazine, April 1983). In Petersburg, Russia, de l'Harpe, scion of one of the leading families of Geneva, was an adviser to the czar. When Napoleon took power and created the Banque de France, Geneva bankers provided a majority of shareholders and the paid-in capital. The Napoleonic occupation of Switzerland was so far from harming the messieurs of Geneva that in 1815, Talleyrand could say, "There are five continents: Europe, America, Asia, Africa, and Geneva."

Geneva kept serving as one of the headquarters for the European *fondi* throughout the 19th century. Its families married into the oligarchies of the world. The Calvinist bankers were now assisting in the founding of larger banks. Switzerland was creating its *Grossbanken*, Swiss Bank Corporation (1872), Union Bank of Switzerland (1862), Crédit Suisse (1856), which were each case the amalgam of a score of *fondi* which sought to acquire broader financial maneuverability.

Geneva was established firmly as one of the major powers in world finance. Add the power accumulated by the private banks of Basel and Zürich: a small, sparsely populated country in the middle of the Alps played a most significant role in world affairs. In insurance too, Swiss giants boast leading international positions, including Winterthur, Zürich, Suisse, Swiss Reinsurance, and La Baloise.

To take one illustrative family case, the de Neuflices, whose branch of the Andres was trading in Genoa by 1667, was one of the major operatives for the centuries-old Genoese oligarchy's bank, the Banco di San Giorgio. Offspring were involved in the New World—one son being hanged as a spy

by the Americans for managing the Benedict Arnold treason. This mishap did not prevent the family from becoming a world power in insurance, financing the leading "liberal" politicians of the 19th century, and acquiring immense interests in colonial ventures. The bank merged in 1945 with the parvenu Protestant bank of Schlumberger, and merged again in 1966 with Mallet Frères (for more than a century, de Neuflyzes had intermarried with Mallets), creating the de Neuflyze, Mallet, Schlumberger bank.

The Mallets were made barons by Denmark's King Frederick V; they ran the drug trade of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century. Part of the family moved to Britain, where Sir Victor Mallet was Queen Victoria's secretary; the de Neuflyzes' British branch is the Earls of Bessborough. The Schlumbergers have a prominent position in Houston, Texas—Madame Dominique Schlumberger de Menil sponsored a conference of the leaders of Palestinian and Arab terrorism at her family-built Rothko Chapel in Houston in October 1981. The Schlumbergers' heavy interests in the Soviet Union (and Schlumberger chief Jean Riboud's links to the French Communist Party) are not alien to that orientation.

It is not only to money that the Swiss owed their worldly fortune, but also to the extraordinary attention devoted by the patricians to the development of intellectual means of control and subversion of nations and populations.

Typically, the role played by Germaine de Staël, daughter of Necker, in the French revolution and even more, in the spreading the wave of mass-irrationalism known as "Romanticism." Her lying, incompetent book *On Germany*, which was made a tremendous best-seller internationally, offered a "blood and soil" medievalist version of German culture which was most instrumental in generating the anti-science, anti-culture reaction in Germany as well as the rest of Europe. Heinrich Heine had to write a whole book in refutation of a

thesis that threatened to engulf German culture in a wave of immoral "back-to-nature" romanticist bathos. Jacob Burckhardt's defense of irrationality, Ferdinand de Saussure's founding of that hideous pseudo-science "linguistics" to destroy classical philology, Jean Piaget's structuralist destruction of classical education, indicate how the Swiss oligarchy, assigning some of its brightest sons to intellectual tasks, operates in world affairs as gamemasters who understand that it is ultimately the control of ideas, of cultures and the matrixes that determine culture, that determines control of nations and populations, rather than raw force, money, or ordinary power and influence.

For that reason, when the establishment of the League of Nations in Geneva consecrated that country's international role, the intellectual role of the country grew accordingly. The Institut Universitaires de Hautes Etudes Internationales represents today one of the most significant centers for international policy making, or rather policy plotting. The institute trains international civil servants in postgraduate studies while serving as a focal point for high-level think-tank activities. The personality of its 25-year director, Jacques Freymond, a founding member of the Club of Rome who made the institute a hotbed of anti-growth, world-federalist influences, indicates sufficiently the content of the work done there.

Our old acquaintance Denis de Rougemont teaches at one of many sub-centers of the institute, the University Institute for European Studies, Europe's coordination point for federalist-environmentalist ferment. De Rougemont, founder of ECOROPA and the European Cultural Foundation, is a protector of the terrorist Longo Mai communities in Europe and Central America, and a close friend of Rémy Schlumberger, who was a member of the notorious "Curiel network" of Moscow-run terrorists. De Rougemont works closely with



Albert Hoffman at the time he invented LSD, one of the Swiss strategists' cultural subversion tools; Fritz Leutwiler of the evil Bank for International Settlements; Hans Küng, "Dark Ages" theologian.

the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, whose founder, Swiss businessman Duttweiler, worked closely with the Abwehr networks during the war, Baron von der Heydt in particular. In the postwar period, the institute and its luminary Heinrich Pestalozzi have served as a major training and planning center for the European Green movement and the spreading of environmentalist ideas since the early 1970s.

In all cases, it is hatred of America as the representative of industrial culture and a sovereign nation-state that is the determinant of that ideology. "Europe of the Regions," "grassroots democracy," are the catchwords. "There is no imperative other than that of nature, there is none from technology," Pestalozzi writes, "no other imperative than that of life, and none from the economy, only of desire and none from your profit," adds this aristocratic spokesman for the "Swiss way of life." Prometheus, he explains in one of his leitmotifs, is history's "worst criminal: he stole the fire of science and technology, not that of spirituality. . . . The religion of growth and the population bomb will have to stop some day, or the cancerous proliferation of population, or urban life, of cities, will produce disaster through massification, pollution, exhaustion of resources."

The typical Club of Rome diatribes? Definitely—but you are reading here the ideas for whose propagation the Club of Rome was created. De Rougemont was instrumental in the 1950 founding of the Société Européenne de Culture (SEC), a Venice-based branch of the modern Inquisition: Umberto Campagnolo, educated in Geneva at the Institut Universitaires de Hautes Etudes Internationales, established as "a bridge between East and West," in the thick of the Cold War. The SEC was the unique location where top intellectuals, scientists and writers of East and West could engage in collective "back-channel" negotiations, and, more importantly, long-range intellectual planning.

An unpublished study by Pietro Cicconi documents the extraordinary role played by the SEC in determining the "paradigm shifts" in the culture accepted by the average populations of the Eastern and Western world alike in the last 30 years. The SEC's program, as articulated in 1950, complained bitterly that the United Nations, still based on nation-states, still dependent on national governments, did not represent the powerful, radical sort of instrumentality required to establish a one-world power! What passes for modern "culture" has been entirely steeped in that Swiss brew.

It will come as no surprise then that the international headquarters of the leading East-West, Malthusian "back-channel" negotiation forum, the Pugwash Conference, is located in Geneva, at the Institut Universitaires de Hautes Etudes Internationales. Under the "neutral aegis" provided by the Swiss, Pugwash, as documented by *EIR* (June 7), brought together British, American, and Russian policy-makers committed to definitively "freezing" technological progress and weakening the United States.

The Institut Universitaires de Hautes Etudes Internationales houses many more such institutions: the Centre d'Etudes

Pratiques de la Negociation Internationale (Center for Applied International Negotiations) "trains," or brainwashes, international civil servants that populate the offices of the United Nations, the finance and foreign ministries of their respective countries. The Centre Internationale d'Etudes Monetaires et Bancaires (International Center for Monetary and Banking Studies) serves the same purpose for central banks and private banks, and "experts" in monetary affairs. The Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement (International Institute for Development Studies) targets specifically the young elites of Third World nations. The Institut Internationale d'Etudes Sociales (International Institute for Social Studies) provides the intellectual substance of the International Labor Organization. And the Association de Genève (International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics), run by Club of Rome member Orio Giarini, an associate of GIIS, is the privately formed club of the world's biggest insurance companies' board chairmen, and "studies economic systems from the standpoint of their vulnerabilities," in other words, generates the parameters for economic warfare.

In economic, monetary, and financial terms of reference, the contents of Swiss policy are clear: the Swiss National Bank as well as the private and commercial banks defend a policy of international triage.

"Why should we save these unsalvageable, bankrupt countries, these bankrupt banks? Many of us here would prefer to 'pull the plug' and let the dust settle," one associate of National Bank chief Fritz Leutwiler explains. "Developing countries will have to adjust. It will mean a lot of pain, and a lowering of the standard of living even for countries where a majority of the population is already living below the vital minimum," said Fritz Leutwiler himself, "even if our own industry suffers in the process."

The pure, unadulterated monetarism that governs Swiss economics is best expressed by Friedrich von Hayek, who privately advocates a financial crash as the solution to the world's ills. Hayek founded—in Switzerland—the Mont Pelerin Society, which has brainwashed so many statesmen in the insipid balderdash of "free-market economics," while fanatically opposing the spread of industrial development and the application of the state's power to direct scientific and technological progress.

Seven years ago, the author accompanied *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. to a meeting held in Basel with one Alfred Matter, then a prominent board member of the Swiss Bank Corporation. LaRouche developed the idea that the growing world debt was going to choke the world economy, provoke depression, debt defaults, and untold suffering. Matter reclined in his comfortable chair, looked to the ceiling as a good Zwinglist (Basel Protestant) should, and replied: "You are right, you are right, but, you know, we are not philanthropists, we are bankers."

These bankers indeed founded the International Red Cross in the last century, through banker Henry Dunant, and the

Freemasonic networks of the Grande Loge Alpina and run the Red Cross as a vast intelligence operation, with the best of covers. At present, the Red Cross is headed by the former deputy governor of the Swiss National Bank, Alexander Hay. They have created an immense smuggling empire which, as Judge Sengelin of France has documented, works in smooth cooperation with the KGB and the intelligence services of Eastern European nations, in particular Bulgaria.

Smuggling in Switzerland is not illegal—since in Swiss law, it only starts once the border has been crossed, in which case it does not fall any longer within the purview of Swiss law. An Italian judge is presently investigating the role of the Union Bank of Switzerland in handling, during the war, the gold jewelry stolen by the SS from the Rome Jewish community, and passed on through the Banca d'Italia, as a lead into today's extraordinary Swiss-centered gold, diamond, jewelry, arms, and other smuggling operations. The Swiss bankers' priests run the Moscow-allied World Council of Churches, based in Geneva, which has become "an instrument of the Russian Orthodox Church ever since it joined it," a Swiss intelligence expert acknowledged. The schismatic "Concilium" organization around heretic Swiss theologian Hans Küng, a pupil of theologian Karl Barth who worked closely with de Rougemont, is centered in Fribourg, Switzerland. The Anthroposophic world center, Rudolf Steiner's "Goetheanum," is based in Switzerland.

The Swiss ruling elite are the chief organizers of an extraordinary amount of "technological leakage" from West to East, to the point that the U.S. administration decided to suspend any scientific-technological cooperation with the Swiss until such "leakage" be brought to an end. The Swiss cooperation with Moscow is no news either: a majority of the membership of both the Menshevik and Boshevik parties lived in Berne and Zürich, under protection, just as anarchist-fascist herald Mikhail Bakunin had, half a century before; and a Swiss became the secretary-general of the Comintern in the late 1920s—who was later allowed to become, after a phony, cosmetic "split" with Moscow, the head of the highly respectable Swiss Socialist Party. Jules Humbert-Droz was a Moscow agent all along, to the full knowledge of Swiss intelligence. Business is business, and geopolitical cooperation even above business.

Switzerland today: the Fourth Reich

In 1958, Dr. Alfred Schaefer, whose personal connections with the Hitler entourage have been mentioned, took over the I. G. Farben front Interhandel AG of Basel. Renting Prinz Radziwill for the purpose, he sent the prince to his brother-in-law Robert Kennedy, then U.S. Attorney General, and obtained a settlement of an affair that had been kept under litigation for 20 years: that of the frozen I. G. Farben assets in the United States. Schaefer worked in Cairo in the 1950s with Hjalmar Schacht and Nazi François Genoud. Schaefer was at the center of the network of postwar Nazi investment, working very closely with retired SS leader Otto

Skorzeny. Schaefer was also the financial adviser to the late Shah of Iran. Middle Eastern networks of Swiss banks—built on a centuries-old tradition of Islam-ology in Swiss universities, including the famous Arab studies expert J. J. Hottinger, scion of one of the major banking families of Zürich, whose descendent, a journalist at the too well informed *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, runs Swiss Middle East intelligence from Cyprus—are more than congruent with those of the Swiss-based parts of the Nazi international, notably those run through François Genoud, former head of Banque Commerciale Arabe. Switzerland is probably the Western nation with the highest density of Moslem converts among the native population. So strong is the Swiss grip on this asset that no Israeli official will dare challenge Genoud and the other Swiss-Arab Nazis for fear of retaliation, financial in particular, and the breakup of intelligence relations.

The case of Ahmed Huber, a Swiss convert and a Nazi, is illustrative: he introduced Genoud to Gamal Abdel Nasser, set up (with Skorzeny) aspects of the Egyptian missile program of the 1950s, ran part of Genoud protégé Ahmed Ben Bella's security services in Algeria. Today, Huber is an intimate friend of Qaddafi, of Ayatollah Khomeini, just as he was a close friend of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. Huber runs parts of Yasser Arafat's PLO, including prominently its dissidents. Huber's world-outlook, in his own words, is to maintain "a Swiss lobby that will succeed in de-Americanizing Switzerland and Europe," an enterprise that offers many areas of collaboration with the KGB; in fact, Huber travels to East Germany very regularly.

The center for subversion of the Middle East, the Geneva-based Islam and the West organization, is based at the Institut Universitaires de Hautes Etudes Internationales, and recruits from the institutes based there. In close, constitutional association with the Club of Rome, Islam and the West has been for years the Muslim Brotherhood's main Western support—along with the Schlumbergers' Rothko Chapel in Houston Texas. Once more, the gutter-level Nazis of the Huber type, and the respectable Nazis at so-called elite level, work on the same track.

François Genoud's close collaborator Gaston Guy Amaudruz, often tagged as "the head" of the Nazi International, because he heads the New European Order fascist offspring of the Malmö International, candidly expresses his world-outlook: "There is no split between left and right wing. The system is a dictatorship of the center. It is very important to have the extremes working together to bring down the system."

"America," Amaudruz continued in a recent interview, "is the world's main problem, the main obstacle to peace. The white man should never have gone to America. The white race should have stayed in Europe. They repressed the American Indians there, it was a brutal repression. America is the main threat to the world. The peace movement's resistance against the United States is perfectly justified . . . the collapse will come."