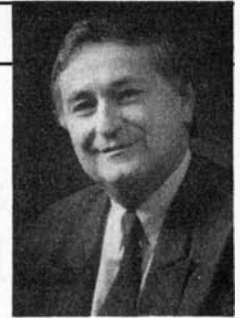


## Interview: Jacques Cheminade



# The threat to the French nation comes from London

*Jacques Cheminade is the leader of the New Solidarity political movement, which ran candidates in the March regional elections in a number of places in France. An author and journalist, he has published a book called The True History of France, and is the author of a newsletter called Le Commentaire. This interview was first published in the German newspaper Neue Solidarität.*

**Q:** The political movement that you head is now celebrating its 20th anniversary, and you yourself know French politics inside out: How would you describe the state of France?

**Cheminade:** The French nation-state is under the threat of deep destabilization. This is basically an operation that originated in London and has been partially taken over by American investment houses, such as Paine Webber, Shearson Lehman, Goldman Sachs, and so forth; its purpose is to eradicate any influence of the independent policies originated during the Gaullist era.

First the Socialist governments, specifically with their deregulation measures of the 1985-86 period, paved the way for foreign financial interests to take over the French markets. As a result, more than one-third of the French foreign debt is now in foreign hands, and about one-third of the capitalization of the French stock market is controlled by the same interests. This creates an extreme vulnerability in the country to any rush of capital. At the same time, the policies of those Socialist governments were monetarist and anti-labor, leading to an unprecedented rise in the French stock market and decrease in the purchasing power of all wage-earners.

Second, the right-wing governments of 1986-88 and 1993-94, although nominally Gaullist, had policies which were in fact just the opposite. The Edouard Balladur government of 1993-94 has continued and furthered the monetarist commitment of the Pierre Bérégovoy government, the last Socialist one. Balladur and the Treasury department of the Finance Ministry, supported by such people as Ernest-Antoine Seillère, the number two man in the French employers' association, the CNPF, have totally opened up the Paris markets to the most extreme forms of speculation. Seillère, president of the Paris Euromarket Association (Paris Europlace) sums up the situation by saying: "Fortunately, Paris is becoming the most attractive of all European financial mar-

kets." Concretely, this means that every week or so, like the new cults during the sunset of the Roman Empire, a new financial house or cult disembarks in Paris to play on derivatives. For example, Paine Webber is making Paris its European center for "risk markets" such as futures on interest rates and market indexes. Goldman Sachs "believes in Paris" as the European center for interest rate markets, and is "joining the club of the organizers in the trading of the French foreign debt and T-bonds." Such leading French banks as Paribas and the Société Générale are becoming notorious for their speculation in derivatives, not only on a European, but also an international level.

This is therefore like a process of colonization or neo-colonization. Worse, French civil servants are getting the bad habit, in order to succeed in their careers, of not serving the French government first, but rather "getting trained" at such institutions as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), or even the United Nations. Neo-gaullist leader Jacques Chirac has denounced this process of "benign neglect" of the nation-state, but proposed no alternative.

This is reflected in neo-malthusian social policies (lowering of social security payments, reduction of retirement pensions, wage cuts) and in a sharp increase of the unemployment rate. Firms prefer to invest in short-term profitable financial operations rather than in industry or research, and reduce their work forces. Executives and workers alike are being laid off at ages 45 or 50, while no young workers or executives are hired to take their places. Therefore, the knowledge and experience of the nation (middle-aged executives), together with its dynamism (the young) are both sacrificed, and only the immediately productive ones are kept employed. This is not only an economic but a social disaster, destroying the sense of hope in the population.

Moreover, instead of fighting against this, the nomenclature of the nation is accepting it and adapting to it. This in turn is reflected in French foreign policy, so disastrous and submissive to the U.N. in Bosnia. France is unfortunately behaving as an accomplice in genocide committed once again in Europe, today, at the same time that its courts are judging some of the perpetrators of the genocide of 1940-45. It is very sad for me to say so, but the French elites seem to have



A Paris demonstration by Cheminade's New Solidarity movement in September 1993, calls for lifting the arms embargo to Bosnia. "More than half of the French population, and more than two-thirds of the youth know that there is genocide going on and it has to be stopped."

learned nothing from the lessons of Munich, the Resistance, and General de Gaulle.

If you look at France's elites and their policies, you will see that the state of France is deplorable. Nonetheless, and I am very happy to say so, there is a mounting resistance to this disaster from the depths of the nation, inspired by the mark that de Gaulle left. As a political leader, I see my responsibility as being to inspire that Resistance, to give it a mission and a perspective. First within the necessary framework of the French-German alliance, not as a mere sentimental souvenir, but with an active content: to fight the British monetarist, neo-darwinian policy, to fight the hypocritical hoax of the U.N. (what de Gaulle used to call a *machin*, a thingamajig), to fight the colonization of our countries, to fight all ideologies of blood and soil. Second, and interconnectedly, my key commitment is as part of the international movement of Lyndon LaRouche's friends. One of my closest political supporters just told me half an hour ago: "If we want to put France back in shape, we need at least two new de Gaulles, one in the U.S. and another here."

**Q:** What is behind the collapse of France's largest state-owned bank, Crédit Lyonnais?

**Cheminade:** This is extremely dangerous; it is precisely the fact that the French elites indulged in money games and deregulation policies, in the same way that Molière's Bourgeois Gentilhomme thought he could become a Turk if he could wear all the right ribbons. Well, now they are caught: The British hold them by the nose. There is now a Parliamentary Inquiry Commission which is going to investigate the

case: billions of francs (probably 70 billion or more) have been wasted in real estate, the Hollywood movie industry, derivatives, and other speculation. This leads us into drug money and the secret services (Parretti, Maxwell, and so forth). So we are issuing a petition to that Parliamentary Inquiry Commission, saying that the investigation has to be carried to its ultimate consequences. If this is not done, it will remain on the French-to-French level, with terrible consequences such as mutual denunciations, internecine warfare, and everybody saying that the culprit is the nationalized status of the bank, the "solution" being to privatize it. It could be very similar to what has happened in Italy, with a similar result: the spoliation of the French state.

The only way to turn things around, is to point the finger at the real cause: the British, London and New York, and the policies of financial deregulation imposed upon France. This has to be made clear; the French "collaborators" have to be ousted; and new policies of national banking and credit issuance implemented, in the framework of a French, Franco-German, and European infrastructure development plan. It is the only way out.

**Q:** News broadcasts are reporting on mass demonstrations by French farmers, students, and other layers, who were protesting with admirable energy against certain social injustices. Can you tell us more about that?

**Cheminade:** There are, as I said before, processes of resistance in the nation against the consequences of the neo-colonization policy. The problem is that the final cause of that neo-colonization is not understood, and that the diverse pro-

cesses are leaderless ones. Therefore, they have fallen into the hands of British agents of influence or ideological manipulation. Former Socialist Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, for example, has just launched a pro-dirigist Citizens' Movement against monetarist policies, the Europe of Maastricht, GATT, and the supranational powers. But he does not call off the British game, and supports, although mildly, the Serbian cause! Philippe de Villiers, the supposedly arch-Catholic leader and patriot, has launched a slate for the European elections against Maastricht, GATT, drug liberalization, etc. But he is financed by the number two person on his slate, none other than Sir Jimmy Goldsmith, the anti-nuclear magnate of the Hollinger stable! So what you have is various types of grass-roots revolts, coopted or controlled by unsavory fellows. This admirable energy has to be organized and the enemy named: the British-U.N.-New York neo-colonial policies. Short of that, the resistance fighters are subject to being misled.

**Q:** Your own policy concerning the war in the Balkans is markedly different to that of the French government, which is reportedly opposed also by large parts of the French population.

**Cheminade:** More than half of the French population, and more than two-thirds of the youth are like me: They know that there is genocide going on, and it has to be stopped. Not only for the sake of its victims, but also for one's own human dignity. The French elites and leaders have themselves lost that dignity, and that is why they indulge in all kinds of Entente Cordiale operations with London. For example, French Research Minister François Fillion, a nominal Gaullist, has declared on France-Inter, the national radio, that "the real question is whether the young Frenchmen of age 18 are willing to die for Gorazde." Interestingly enough, Marcel Deat, who would become a pro-Nazi French leader, had said in 1939 that no Frenchmen were willing "to die for Danzig." It is sad, very sad to see supposed Gaullists speaking today like the worst appeasers of Hitler in 1939, or of Stalin in 1945. Worse, if possible, is that the Socialists and diverse leftist groups are calling for "peace now," but in a vague way. Nobody among the Socialist opposition has raised his voice in the French National Assembly to attack the government's policy in a real way, and when they were in power, all supported the pro-Serb policy of President Mitterrand. As for the Communists, they are overtly pro-Serb. I and my friends are the only ones who are clean on this issue, together with the population and a minority of active informal organizations, such as the Association Against Ethnic Cleansing.

**Q:** Is there really a new Entente Cordiale between France and Great Britain?

**Cheminade:** There is no new Entente Cordiale between France and Great Britain, but there are various postures or positions of many leading French politicians engaged in vari-

ous forms of the old intercourse. It may be more opportunism than true pleasure involved, but the results of the performance are visible in Rwanda, Bosnia, or wherever the U.N.O. is active. A friend of mine told me that the French politicians consider their British counterparts as infected with some sort of AIDS, and that therefore they wear Parizers when they deal with them, and believe the propaganda according to which that makes them safe.

**Q:** Another hot issue: D-Day celebrations. What significance do they have for Frenchmen?

**Cheminade:** They are the celebration of freedom, the country freed from Nazism. And not only the country, but all Europe, including Germany. That is why I personally insisted that all members of the German Resistance fighters, their relatives and descendants, should be invited to the ceremony of the 50th anniversary. Also, if German soldiers could not be invited to the celebrations themselves, for obvious reasons, my conception was to organize on the same day, in the same place, for example at Caen's Peace Memorial, a second celebration for the future of peace in the world, with all those who fought then in all armies. The celebration of the fight against Nazism would then have been linked to the notion of forgiveness and brotherhood for the future.

This would have been a way to give to this anniversary a perspective of human solidarity and peace. This, unfortunately, was not done. I must add that the present behavior of most notably the British, but also the French and American governments in Bosnia, is an insult to all those who died for freedom in Normandy or elsewhere, and to the generations to come.

**Q:** You travel quite often to Poland, another country that is so important for Europe. How do you think we can best win over especially young people in Poland, France, and Germany to the cause of friendship and cooperation among our nations?

**Cheminade:** By linking clearly the resistance against both Nazism and Stalinism yesterday, to the resistance against the British policies of today and those which destroyed Poland in the "winter of the 19th century." Also, our great common poetry, great music, and great science should be shared in a permanent, impromptu way, to give it back to the whole world. We should show them that this is what it means to be human, not a dog-against-dog fight for a position in society. We should help young people in Poland, France, and Germany to be reintroduced to that society of old European friends who wrote for us, painted for us, and composed for us many centuries ago, so that the youth find a purpose, and become happier, filled with discoveries. A good approach to it is what the Polish architects did, in the most difficult and adverse environment, to rebuild or restore the old centers of their cities destroyed by World War II, knowing that often to care for an old grandmother is what keeps you young.