

EIR Special Report

London sets the stage for a new Triple Entente

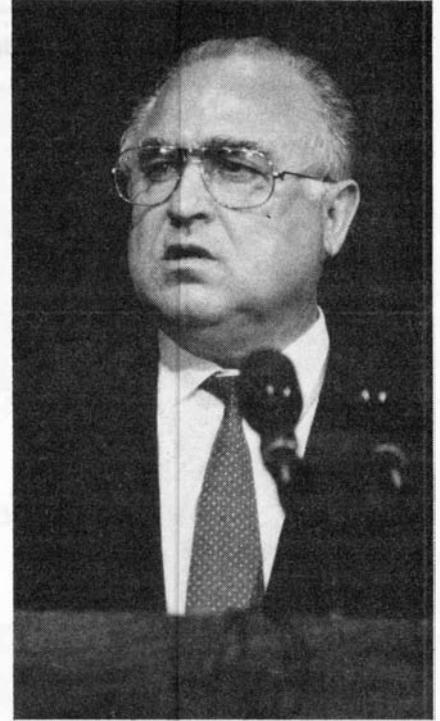
by Webster G. Tarpley

Ninety years after its inception, the Triple Entente is back in the news. The Triple Entente was the alliance among Great Britain, France, and Russia, which was formed by British King Edward VII between 1904 and 1907 and which London used for the purpose of unleashing World War I and undermining modern European civilization. Most of the disasters of the twentieth century—including not just World War I, but also the fascism of Mussolini, Hitler, and Tojo; the communism of Lenin, Stalin, and Mao; the Great Depression; World War II; the Cold War; and the post-1918 decline of morality and the traditional family—have their roots in the Triple Entente and in Edward VII's other monstrous creations, his Anglo-Japanese alliance and his London-Washington "special relationship," both of which functioned as auxiliaries to the Triple Entente.

Prominent spokesmen for the London-centered oligarchy are now advertising the Triple Entente as the model for a British-centered, anti-American new order in Europe. One of the hawkers is Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, the Washington correspondent of the London *Sunday Telegraph*, and the author of scurrilous diatribes against President Clinton concerning the concocted "Whitewater" and "troopergate" affairs. On Nov. 21, 1994, Evans-Pritchard was so indignant about Clinton's termination of intelligence sharing with London about arms flows into Bosnia, that he predicted that "Britain will have to find solace in a tentative Triple Entente with France and Russia."

Last April, Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, and his French counterpart Alain Juppé marked the 90th anniversary of the Anglo-French Entente Cordiale of 1904 (one of the building blocks of the Triple Entente) with celebrations. It is evidently the aim of Hurd and Juppé to align with Russia against the United States in defense of London's Serbian proxy; that would be a new Triple Entente with a vengeance.

London is now dispatching invitations to French technocratic freemasons and Russian free-market *nouveaux riches* to join in opposing possible constructive



British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd (left) and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé (center) are promoting a new Triple Entente that would align France, Britain, and Russia against the United States. On the right is Russian Foreign Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

steps by the Clinton administration in various policy areas. The main thrust of the new Triple Entente is to block Clinton's announced German-American partnership for the economic development of Russia and other countries of central and eastern Europe. London is seeking to block a Eurasian economic reconstruction and development strategy of great projects of infrastructure, along the lines of Lyndon LaRouche's 1989 Productive Triangle, now partially reflected in the European Union's Delors Plan and the "Silk Road" cooperation reaching into China.

World leaders owe it to their countries' future to understand what the Triple Entente was the first time around, before they consent to London's offer of a repeat performance.

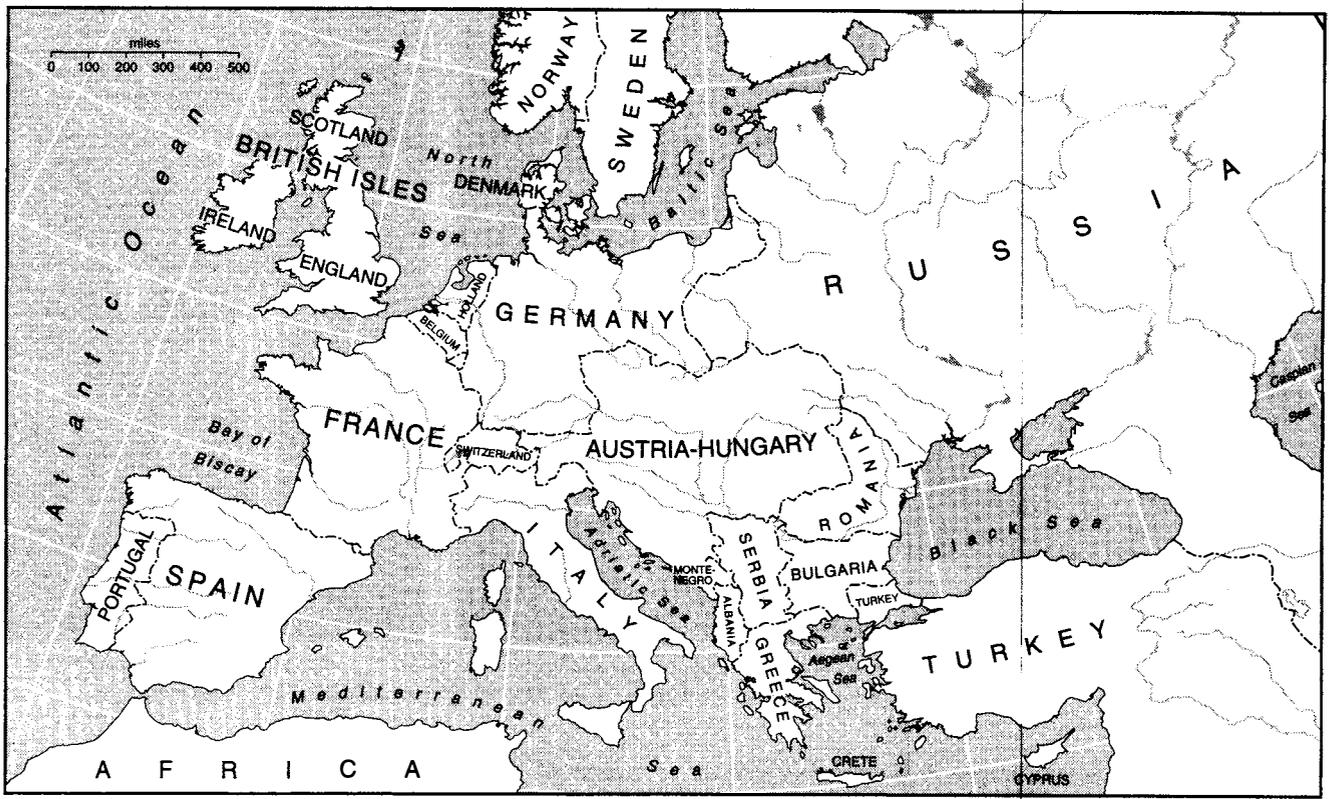
The Triple Entente and World War I were the response of Edward VII's British oligarchy to a series of challenges to the continued world domination of the British Empire, which at the beginning of our century embraced about one-quarter of the land area and population of the entire planet. The threat profile against the British Empire and its brutal colonial exploitation was not a matter of military aggression, but rather involved the extension of European railroad and other infrastructural technology into the colonial sector, breaking the monopoly of British sea power.

During the 1890s, each of the leading continental states possessed a more or less prominent institutional grouping which was seeking to implement proposals for infrastructural development. In France, there were such figures as Foreign Minister Gabriel Hanotaux and Ferdinand de Lesseps, the

builder of the Suez Canal. In Russia, there was Finance Minister Sergei Yulevich Witte, the builder of the Trans-Siberian railway, and his ally, the eminent scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev. In Germany, there was Georg von Siemens of the Siemens concern and the Deutsche Bank, who was laying track for the Berlin to Baghdad railway.

The strategic thinking of Witte and Hanotaux converged on a continental European coalition of France, Germany, and Russia, based on a community of interest in world economic development, capable of reaching out to the United States and other powers, and above all capable of putting an end to the divide and conquer "balance of power" machinations of the British imperialists. There were a number of occasions during the 1890s when this continental league could have been assembled; one golden opportunity came in the wake of the 1898 British-French Fashoda confrontation, at a time when the British aggression in South Africa, commonly called the Boer War, exposed both the malicious evil and the stunning military weakness of London. The 1899-1902 Boer War united the governments of the world in their abhorrence of British policy. By this time Hanotaux was out of office, replaced by the raving anglophile Théophile Delcassé. A more serious obstacle was posed by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, not because he was the bloodthirsty monster of Entente propaganda, but rather because he was a pathetic fool obsessed with his personal inferiority complex in regard to the British monarchy. The kaiser's track record was one of erratic duplicity, with the constant danger that he would

Europe on the eve of World War I



succumb to the next overture from London.

The failure to bring Germany into a community of principle with the France of Hanotaux and the Russia of Witte by 1902 at the latest amounts to a great lost opportunity, a turning point of world history in the sense of Friedrich Schiller's *punctum saliens*. Lost here was the chance for the twentieth century to become a true renaissance age of reason and world economic development. What came instead, courtesy of London, was symbolized by the bloody stalemate of Verdun.

The case of Kaiser Wilhelm points up the underlying axiomatic problem in European civilization at the close of the nineteenth century: pervasive oligarchism. All the European powers (with the exception of the French, who had their own problems with anglophile freemasonry) were oligarchical and were derived from the restoration directed by the British and Metternich at the Congress of Vienna in 1815. German politics suffered from the fact that national unity had not been achieved during the Liberation Wars against Napoleon, but had been relegated to Bismarck's blood and iron. Further, European nationalism was polluted by the insane chauvinism spread by the 1848-era Mazzini networks and their successors. So, in a typical case, Czar Nicholas II hated Sergei Witte, and only kept him in office because he was the only capable minister in sight.

Still, there were numerous opportunities to avoid the war which broke out in 1914. If Bismarck had refrained from

annexing Alsace-Lorraine in 1871; if Kaiser Wilhelm had renewed Germany's Re-insurance Treaty with Russia in 1890; if Russian and German ministers had been able to broaden the opening for Russo-German cooperation conjured up by the 1905 Björkjö meeting of czar and kaiser, the worst might have been avoided. If the German war plan known as the Schlieffen Plan had been competently carried out in August 1914, the war would have been over in a few months, and the British and their pawns might have been defeated. That all these opportunities were lost suggests the power of the oligarchical axiomatics which the British were always able to exploit.

The following reports—most of them based upon speeches delivered to a conference of the Schiller Institute and International Caucus of Labor Committees on Feb. 19-20, 1995—are offered as a mirror for statesmen and ordinary citizens at the end of the twentieth century. Will you follow in the footsteps of Edward VII's agents like Sir Edward Grey, Joseph Chamberlain, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, Georges Clemenceau and Delcassé? Or will you imitate the Bülow and Bethmann-Hollwegs in their mixture of corruption and self-delusion? If you do, a new world conflagration is not far off. Remember that German-British relations never seemed so cordial as they did between 1912 and June 1914.