

Louis XI's founding of the French nation

In an article published in *EIR* on Feb. 17, Lyndon LaRouche underlined the historical role of France's King Louis XI, who ruled from 1461 to 1483. "The principle," LaRouche wrote, "that every person is made in the image of God, was not introduced efficiently into the practice of statecraft until the mid-fifteenth-century Council of Florence and the subsequent establishment of the first modern nation-state, the commonwealth of France's King Louis XI. The notion of commonwealth introduced by Louis XI to France, is the beginning of the existence of the modern form of nation-state."

France in the fifteenth century had 14 feudal duchies and 94 major cities, which Louis XI unified on the basis of the common good. This "commonwealth" idea was conveyed in the slogan, "One law, one weight, one currency." The king also established one army.

In an article soon to be published in *New Federalist* newspaper, Pierre Beaudry documents Louis's crafting of the nation-state. One vital aspect was a tax policy for population growth, which Beaudry describes as "the first time in history that a policy of demographic growth had

been consciously implemented for the establishment of the nation-state."

"As a general policy," Beaudry writes, "Louis capitalized on the initiative of entrepreneurs and inventors, whom he protected, in agriculture as well as industry and commerce. He adopted protectionist and anti-dumping measures to protect grain growers or linen producers; exempted traders from provincial tariffs, while imposing tariffs on foreign merchandise; encouraged skilled labor from other countries to come into Dauphine and settle there with their families, guaranteeing them tax exemptions proportional to their productivity."

"The most significant political change that the king forced through was to bankrupt the feudal landed aristocracy with the creation and defense of industries throughout the 94 cities of France, and by opening trade with England, and treaty agreements with Genoa, Florence, Naples, Sicily, and Calabria. He guaranteed the expansion of industries by subsidizing the cities, including the medieval cities; such subsidies came from a tax (*la taille*) which was inversely proportional to the productivity of the earner. Accordingly, the feudal princes were taxed at a higher rate than the burghers, and the burghers higher than the city-dwellers. . . . Through the judicious use of taxes, both levying and exempting as the case may be, Louis was able to direct economic growth and development throughout the kingdom."

strongest in favor of maintaining the Franco-German alliance. Chirac surprised many by not mentioning once in his platform the need for reinforced cooperation with Great Britain. Quite the contrary, he called for a renewal of the Franco-American alliance, which, in the context of the current breakdown of the British-American "special relationship," would seem to align Chirac against the British. Jospin, whose support committee is headed by Jacques Delors and by Delors's daughter Martine Aubry, can hardly be suspected of harboring anti-German sentiment.

These are only tendencies, however, and very fragile ones. The artisan of the "new social policies" of Chirac is known to be Philip Seguin, whose sympathies for Britain were expressed most clearly in the biography he authored recently about Britain's favorite French catamite, Napoleon III. The Seguin group within the Chirac camp is also cohabitating with that of Alain Madelin, the French president of the Mont Pelerin Society, whose policies echo the anti-state ravings of the Conservative Revolution crowd in the United States.

Cheminade's impact

In this context, only the candidacy of Jacques Cheminade can possibly catalyze a reemergence of the Party of France.

Even as the election campaign began, the influence of Cheminade's policies was visible in the Chirac and Jospin camps. It is Cheminade and his friends who have been campaigning in recent years for a 0.1% tax on financial derivatives, well before any of the official spokesmen of the Socialist Party even knew what derivatives were. In the last two months of the campaign, Chirac called for the creation of a Middle East Common Market to cement the new Mideast peace accords, and called for increasing aid to Africa and the rest of the Third World; he even called for a Marshall Plan for the Paris suburbs. Such policies have long been advocated by Cheminade.

None of the other candidates, however, know how to realize those policies. None of them are aware of the fact that the international monetary system has to be put through bankruptcy proceedings, before it can move in the direction of policies of growth. None are willing to announce a crack-down on financial speculation, and moving toward a two-tier credit policy that would favor productive credit and penalize speculative capital.

An element which is central to evaluate the credibility of these presidential programs, is how they will deal with the Maastricht Treaty on European union. The three main parties are favorable to the treaty and to all its consequences: 1) the