

Editorial

Worse, Worst, Worsthorne

Sir Peregrine Worsthorne is the stepson of the same Montagu Norman, who from his position as head of the Bank of England, orchestrated the rise to power of Adolf Hitler, through the efforts of his protégé—the Nazi economics minister, Hjalmar Schacht.

While ultimately Schacht and Hitler parted company, this did not occur before Schacht had imposed precisely the kind of fascist austerity on the German economy, which has been forced upon the Russian economy today under the name, “shock therapy.” While now it is the International Monetary Fund rather than the Bank of England which takes the lead, the oligarchical board of directors is the same for both. Both carry out Venetian policies emanating from the House of Windsor.

Montagu Norman played a key role in bringing the Nazis to power in Germany, but he did so at the behest of the British monarchy. For the British working people in that period, conditions of life were little, if any, better than in Germany, as unions underwent brutal repression, and millions of working people had a bare subsistence from the “dole.”

This is the same policy which Norman’s stepson Worsthorne advocates be turned against the British people. In the London *Sunday Telegraph* of Feb. 4, he spelled this out. The “politics of fear” and massive “repression,” he wrote, must be used against “the underclass,” in order to ensure “governability” in Britain and, potentially, in other Western countries. The headline for his article in this Hollinger Corp. rag, was as clever as any Nazi slogan of the past: “The Big Stick May Be the Next Big Idea.”

Worsthorne, a violent enemy of President Clinton, has been promoting the need for an “authoritarian, post-welfare-state” form of rule for at least the past year. Those Americans who support the Gingrich-Grumm proposal for so-called welfare and Medicaid reform, coupled with tax benefits to the wealthy, should take special heed of the consequences of enforcing such brutal class rule.

Worsthorne makes no bones about it in his open endorsement of authoritarian government. The neo-

conservative revolution leads inevitably to the necessity for a police State. Thus he writes: “I don’t think it was primarily a ‘big idea’ that made Margaret Thatcher such a formidable politician. . . .

“Mrs. Thatcher was formidable because to her intellectual conviction was added that much rarer quality: awesome ruthlessness. . . . Britain’s economic miracle in the 1980s owed a lot to monetarism and market economics, but it owed even more to the politics of fear—fear of the Iron Lady. That was what really made Britain governable again.” Her particular strong point, was her ruthless crushing of the mid-1980s miners’ strike, exalts Worsthorne.

He goes on to say that there is a taboo against speaking of “the politics of fear. . . . But since, to a large extent, politicians are paid to do the dirty work we do not want to do ourselves—such as imposing taxes, rationing scarce medical resources, locking people up, sending soldiers to their death in Bosnia—a reputation for nastiness ought to be an asset rather than a liability.”

All this is relevant today, writes Worsthorne, “since it seems highly unlikely that any British Government, either of the Left or the Right, is going to come up with a big idea for the future of this country which will not depend on the politics of fear. With the Tories, this is becoming painfully obvious.

“They are going ahead with cutting public spending regardless of how badly this will hurt the underclass, whose resentments will be kept under control by tougher police action. In the long run, it is claimed, the resulting economic prosperity will restore social cohesion. In the meantime, it will be up to the criminal justice system to take the strain.”

Despite all of the obvious problems in the United States today, it is as true now, as it was in the days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his opponent Winston Churchill, that the United States represents the only effective point of resistance to British imperialism and a resurgence of fascism. Peregrine Worsthorne is the mouthpiece for a brutish tyranny which must be opposed, if mankind is to survive.