

Jacques Cheminade's Presidential Campaign

by Christine Bierre

PARIS, April 16 (Nouvelle Solidarité)—Jacques Cheminade is running his third presidential campaign in France, much to the dismay of the ruling elites who, under the presidency of François Hollande, did their best to make it very difficult for “minor” candidates to become qualified for the race.

This time around, due undoubtedly to the depth of the crisis in the EU and in France, Jacques Cheminade has been able to address millions on television, and to talk about his program without slanders or innuendos. As of April 10, we are in the last two weeks of the Presidential campaign, leading to the first round vote on April 23, and under the rule of “equality” in media coverage, all candidates will have exactly the same amount of coverage and in equal circumstances.

In this context, Jacques’ main campaign themes, “Free France from financial occupation” through Glass-Steagall reform, and by exiting the euro currency, the EU, and NATO, have received massive coverage. The theme of the “financial occupation” of France and the elites “collaborating” with that system, is felt here as a very sharp attack, a shocking attack, because of the Nazi occupation.

Interviewers are intrigued by this idea: “Just who are the financial occupiers?” Cheminade gives examples: In 1979 the French debt was equivalent to 239 billion euros, and it was held essentially by the large French banks; today it is 2.17 trillion euros, and it is



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Jacques Cheminade on a campaign visit to the Port du Havre.

held by 19 international systemic banks, including major French banks, as well as HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland, Deutsche Bank, Santander, and UBS, among others. Talking about occupation means also talking about “collaborators” with that system: the large systemic French banks, the 30,000 lobbyists in Brussels, and Mario Draghi’s ECB injecting 80 billion euros a month (now 60 billion euros) into the banks.

Also being covered on a daily basis, through several interviews on all national and local media, are Cheminade’s long-term proposals to fight for the common aims of mankind as joint projects with other nations:

- For space exploration,
- For exploration and reasonable management of the oceans, whose depths are less known than the sur-

face of the Moon, and are rich with rare metals, and

- For the development of Africa.

Urgently for France, Cheminade's program proposes that once France recovers its economic and financial sovereignty from the EU, and re-establishes its own national bank, he would ossie 100 billion euros in public credit per year, 4.5% of France's GDP, in order to create a million jobs per year in a Rooseveltian manner—going from kindergartens for the very young, to service jobs to aid the seniors, to rebuilding national infrastructure in general and building new infrastructure, and great projects for the future:

- Space,
- Fourth generation nuclear power,
- Fusion power, and
- Robotics.

While some are shocked, and accuse us of wanting to use the printing press to create jobs, Jacques merely refers to the fact that Draghi, a counterfeiter and a

former Goldman Sachs boy, is already doing it! Over a year, if one adds 80 billion euros per month of quantitative easing given by Draghi to the European banks, and divides it by 12.5, which is France's part in the European GDP, all this is equivalent to 125 billion euros per year of money printing, which is more than the 100 billion Cheminade is demanding.

Beyond these issues, Jacques has presented innovative ideas for culture, for education, for reintroducing a high level of training in the French high schools, and for modernizing multimodal transport infrastructure and the French strict-sufficiency nuclear deterrent, which is in danger of becoming obsolete.

Cheminade also debated the other ten candidates, live, in a national debate on April 4, organized by the private chain BFM-TV and its affiliates. This was a first ever: the front-runners Marine Le Pen, Emmanuel Macron, François Fillon, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, and Benoit Hamon, agreed to debate the "minor" candidates: Nicolas Dupont Aignan, Jacques Cheminade, Nathalie Arthaud, Philipp Poutou, François Asselineau, and Jean Lassale.

Cheminade Exposes Phony Candidates in April 4 Debate

Cheminade: I want to say something about financial markets. You are a bunch of loudmouths. You try to steal from those who you consider weaker, but the weaker are going to revolt. Mr. Fillon, you talked about debts. They are unjust, illegitimate, and odious debts, as we imposed in the case of Greece! Re-read David Graeber and Ernesto Laclau, and you will see what this debt is. It is debt which has been imposed on the people for the benefit of financial interests. If we do not address this problem, we are not addressing anything!

In 2013, JP Morgan published a paper which I showed the Élysée at the time [he turns to candidate Macron]. The paper said very clearly that the time was over for the constitutions drawn up to protect labor rights in the fight against fascism, that the time was over for all protections of labor, and it was necessary to have authoritarian regimes in the future, maybe on a temporary basis—such as the nationalizations that you propose [said to candidate Hamon] and that they had to be imposed . . .

Debate of 11 Candidates

National private channel TF1 had organized a similar debate days before with only the five major candidates, which had provoked a massive outcry, so that these chains felt compelled to keep up the face of democracy. What happened was to be expected: The "minor" candidates bit the "major" ones, causing some visible damage in their poll results. Following this debate, Le Pen and Macron, who, as front runners, were particularly targeted, each lost a point down to 23% and 22% respectively; Fillon went back up to 20%, and Mélenchon gained a point up to 19%. Hamon fell to 7%. The poll results for the "minor" candidates are unknown, because they are all lumped into a single polling figure.

Cheminade was definitely able to call the shots, in particular in the first half of a debate which lasted more than four hours. But many others have helped themselves abundantly, over the years, to Cheminade's proposals, which they add onto their own otherwise-incoherent programs as single issues. Among the candidates, seven want to lift sanctions against Russia, and six are so-called euro-skeptics.

But no one else has the balls to attack the rule of the markets and the financial oligarchy: This was the

first polemic Cheminade launched against the two front-runners, Le Pen and Macron. He first turned to Le Pen and brought up the fact that her close financial advisor, Bernard Monot, had proclaimed he is “a man of the markets; our wish is to reassure the financial markets,” in an interview after meetings he had with City of London circles who had wanted find out what Le Pen would do if she were elected President. “How will you create the jobs you say you will create, if you accept the rule of the markets which destroy them?” Cheminade asked her, before setting his sights on Macron, saying when you were at the Elysée, you didn’t carry



Jacques Cheminade in Le Havre, France.

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out the banking separation that Hollande had promised, because you did not want to attack the markets. “The common denominator of both: you do not want to attack the markets and you must acknowledge it.”

Cheminade moved on to the question of Europe: “The present Europe is destroying itself, and the euro has become a currency of speculation which the ECB’s Mario Draghi, a shady banker, manipulates in his own way: passing 80 billion euros per month to the banks in quantitative easing. That is not Europe, it is not the European cathedral wanted by General de Gaulle, Mr. Fillon; it’s something else; it is the Europe of 30,000 lobbyists who betray the real Europe, and we must build the real Europe.

And I agree with Asselineau: we must leave the present Europe as it is, i.e. the European Union of the euro, and NATO which is its armed branch—not to jump into the void, but to create a true Europe, another Europe which corresponds to what Charles de Gaulle and the founding fathers had dreamed of: a Europe of nations and projects, of sovereign nation-states—and it’s with that Europe that we must move towards great projects. And there, with the BRICS and with China who are proposing a ‘win-win’ system, this new Europe must ally around a project, another type of economy in the world which will no longer be under the dictates of

the financial markets, but an economy for production, and for the future. You will tell me ‘one is never sure of one’s partners.’ That’s true. That’s why we must fight with them as one fights with friends and with enemies.”

Other key points Cheminade raised are the real fight against terrorism, and the need to eliminate the French currency control in Africa—by means of the African franc (CFA)—and to initiate big projects.

Jacques Cheminade also had a beautiful and unprepared concluding statement. We must, he said, recover the “happy days” of the Libération from the Nazis, but not with the present institutions. We must “free ourselves from the financial and cultural occupation of today.”

We must liberate ourselves once again. And for that we must lift the financial occupation that oppresses us, and go for “public credit for the future,” banking separation in order to clean up the financial system, and the elimination of despicable debts—for a policy to create real wealth, real growth.

Jacques’ Vision for France

“To do that, my fellow Frenchmen must re-establish their self-esteem, rather than being afraid of making mistakes. We must give art and science back to the people, as Leo Lagrange and Jean Vilar had called for.

If that frame of mind is not re-established, people won't fight the way they should. Give everywhere the means to discover, create planetariums, palaces of discovery, and museums of imagination in which the great works of art are made available to all through reproductions, and provoke social ferment like we had in the beginning of the French Revolution, in the villages, among the friendship societies. That is what fraternity means. If you vote for me, you will vote for France seen through the eyes of the Future."

Among the more important statements of Jacques Cheminade on national television in the last two weeks of the campaign, was his 20 minute prime-time interview on TF1, on the evening news, where he was able to address more than five million people. Cheminade was feisty on that interview when the journalists were being nasty.

Following that, Cheminade again toured the country, holding stand-up meetings in the street in Lyon, and in towns of greater Lyon including Villefontaine, and also in Montpellier, in Toulouse—the city which houses all main aerospace industries and research centers. In all these places, some 20 to 40 people gathered around the candidate and asked questions. Some of these standup meetings had been prepared a bit in advance through leafleting and organizing by supporters at public tables for literature distribution. But the participation was good! In the Toulouse area, Cheminade visited an agricultural lab, and a crowd of journalists came to cover him.

Finally, the other very high point of last week was the hour-long prime time morning interview on BFMTV/RMC, with radio star host Jean-Jacques Bourdin, which was excellent from every standpoint. In much of the television coverage, the fact that Jacques is bringing forth Lyndon LaRouche's ideas is brought up, sometimes in a nasty way, sometimes straightforwardly. Most hosts call LaRouche "a conspiracy theorist," but others speak of him without innuendo.

Bourdin presented quotes from an interview Lyndon LaRouche had given to France2 national television in 1995, which was so good that it was never aired. Bourdin presented an extract of LaRouche explaining that in his campaign, Jacques Cheminade was denouncing the Paris elites, who have lost all notion of reality, and went instead to the people in the provinces. After a couple of well-known journalists—Zemmour and Naulleau—tried to corner him into renouncing his friendship with LaRouche by asking "do you admit"

this or that, Cheminade responded, "I fully accept the fact that LaRouche intervened with Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Wills of Guyana at the Colombo conference of the Non-Aligned Movement to call for a new world economic order"; "I fully accept that LaRouche met several times with [then-Indian Prime Minister] Indira Gandhi, and once with [then-Mexican President] José López Portillo, whom he advised to use the 'debt bomb'; I accept that LaRouche met with [then World Jewish Congress president] Nahum Goldmann and with [then-Israeli leader] Abba Eban, and I even accept that once he even supported [then-Israeli Prime Minister] Ariel Sharon who, while not being exactly a dove, was more reasonable than those who succeeded him. . . ." At this point, the tricked journalist merely said: "Stop!"

Something bigger is happening in France, around Cheminade's campaign. More so than in previous elections, the conditions of a general debate typical of a time of crisis has emerged. In response to Cheminade, a leading group definitely decided that his ideas must be listened to, and proceeded to present many of them during interviews in the form of references to "comparative studies" of all the candidates that had appeared on the Internet. These include Cheminade's answers to questions from specific interest groups. So, over all, if the French people want to know who he is and what he represents, they have many ways to do so, including our own Internet.

The last thing to report is that to this day, one week before the election, the outcome is still not determined. The two front runners: Le Pen and this creature of the banks and the media called Macron, have been losing points (the first is at 23%, the second 22%). In the meantime, Fillon got back up to 20%, and Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who is a French version of the German [leftist] Die Linke, moved up to 19%. This old Mitterrand hand has transformed himself successfully into a mixture of an anti-EU Tsipras and Hugo Chavez, and has taken themes from us like space exploration and banking separation, which, however, he combines with the kiss of death: a call to end de Gaulle's Fifth Republic, and to instead usher in a new parliamentary Third Republic (which they call Sixth), and having France abandon nuclear power in favor of offshore windmills. Whatever the results, however, as Cheminade has stated many times on French television and media recently, there will be no majority in France, so the fight will continue.