

‘The Second Coming of Felix Rohatyn’

by Anton Chaitkin

When Michael Bloomberg was elected Mayor of New York City just months after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, leading financier-oligarchical circles in London and on Wall Street celebrated *their* victory. If the celebrations were behind closed doors, they might have flashed a Nazi or Fascist salute at each other. Because in the wake of Bloomberg’s narrow election (it was the 59,000 votes cast on the New York Independence Party line of kook therapists Lenora Fulani and Fred Newman that secured Bloomberg’s win), a hard-core corporatist fascist apparatus was given the keys to City Hall, and has been running New York in their interests ever since.

The corporatist fascist organization, out of which Bloomberg himself came, and which now owns New York, has a name: the Partnership for New York City. It fits all of the classic definitions of corporatist fascism, such as was imposed on Italy under the bankers’ dictatorship of British agent Count Giuseppe Volpi di Misurata and his clown-prince, Benito Mussolini.

This corporatist fascism is modeled precisely on the 14th-Century Lombard system of banker-run warring city-states, which brought on the greatest catastrophe of modern history—the Black Death and the New Dark Age, when half the population of Europe was wiped out by disease, famine, and the onset of the Hundred Years War. The present generation of would-be Lombard bankers in London and on Wall Street is promoting policies which, if implemented, would bring on another Dark Age, in which the present population of approximately 6.5 billion, would be reduced to under 1 billion, over one or two generations, through the same combination of war, pestilence, and famine.

The Partnership for New York City, founded in 1979 by David Rockefeller, proudly spells out its corporatist outlook and agenda on its website:

“The Partnership is a nonprofit membership organization comprised of a select group of two hundred CEOs (‘Partners’) from New York City’s top corporate, investment and entrepreneurial firms. Partners are committed to working closely with government, labor and the nonprofit sector to enhance the economy and maintain New York City’s position as the global center of commerce, culture and innovation. . . .

“By leveraging its network of Partners, the Partnership has the unique ability to go beyond advocacy to action. Through its affiliate, the New York City Investment Fund, the

Partnership directly invests in economic development projects in all five boroughs of the city.”

The Partnership’s own official history highlights the role of the Rockefeller family in launching and running the corporatist takeover:

“Following in the tradition of three generations of Rockefellers who were closely associated with the Chamber [New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry—ed.], David Rockefeller transformed the organization in 1979. In that year, he founded the New York City Partnership and affiliated it with the Chamber. Although the original Chamber had taken a broad look at what it considered to be ‘business interests,’ it was primarily a business advocacy group. Under Rockefeller’s vision, the new Partnership would allow business leaders to work more directly with government and other civic groups to address broader social and economic problems in a ‘hands on’ way. In 2002, the New York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce became the Partnership for New York City.”

As documented in the Feb. 29, 2008 issue of *EIR* (“Fascist in an Armani Suit: Bloomberg Channels Mussolini’s Corporativism”), Bloomberg’s Partnership is, to New York City, what Mussolini’s Fascist Confederation of Industrialists was, to Italy. They set the policy, always serving the needs of the financial oligarchy at the expense of the public good, and their political front man did as he was told. The fact that Bloomberg, a multi-billionaire, owed his entire career to the very Partnership colleagues that he put in charge of New York City, simply made the takeover all the more efficient and seamless.

Partners in Fascism

The current co-chairmen of the Partnership are Lloyd C. Blankfein, who became chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs & Co. when Henry Paulson became Treasury Secretary; and Victor F. Ganzi, president and CEO of The Hearst Corporation. David Rockefeller, former chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, is listed as “Founding Chairman.” The remaining 200 CEOs come from the upper echelon of the corporatist elite—bankers, insurance executives, hedge fund managers, media bosses—reflecting how advanced the deindustrialization of New York City and the United States as a whole has become in the past 30 years, since the Partnership was launched.



EIRNS/Margaret Fairchild

Mouse-olini on the streets of New York: a LaRouche PAC rally on Feb. 29. Benito visited City Hall, Wall Street, and other prime locations. Mayor Bloomberg, the clone of Felix Rohatyn and admirer of Mussolini's infrastructure policies, was not amused.

Here is a sampling of the Board of Directors: Stephen Berger, chairman, Odyssey Investment Partners, LLC; Kevin Burke, chairman, president & CEO, Con Edison; James Dimon, chairman, president & CEO, JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Alan H. Fishman, chairman, Meridian Capital Group, LLC; Robert Greifeld, president & CEO, The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.; Robert P. Kelly, CEO, The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation; Jeffrey B. Kindler, chairman & CEO, Pfizer Inc.; Henry R. Kravis, Founding Partner, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.; William P. Lauder, president & CEO, The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.; Rochelle B. Lazarus, chairman & CEO, Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide; John Mack, chairman & CEO, Morgan Stanley; K. Rupert Murdoch, chairman & CEO, News Corporation; Richard Parsons, chairman, Time Warner, Inc.; Alan Rappaport, vice chairman, US Trust, New York president, Bank of America; Steven Rattner, managing principal, Quadrangle Group LLC; James D. Robinson III, co-founder & general partner, RRE Ventures; Wilbur L. Ross Jr., chairman & CEO, WL Ross & Co. LLC; Barry Salzberg, CEO, Deloitte & Touche LLP; Alan D. Schwartz, president & CEO, The Bear Stearns Companies, Inc.; Stephen A. Schwarzman, chairman & CEO, The Blackstone Group; Sy Sternberg, chairman & CEO, New York Life Insurance Company; Martin J. Sullivan, chairman & CEO, American International Group, Inc.; John A. Thain, chairman & CEO, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.; James S. Tisch, president & CEO, Loews Corporation; John B. Veihmeyer, U.S. deputy chairman and Americas chairman, KPMG LLP; Seth Waugh, CEO, Deutsche Bank Americas; and Robert

Wolf, chairman & CEO, UBS Group Americas.

The Partnership boasts that they have set the Bloomberg agenda, since his arrival at City Hall, including such classic fascist schemes as the move, currently under way, to impose a draconian “congestion tax” on all cars and trucks entering Manhattan, from 86th Street down to Battery Park. Mayor Bloomberg is a hard-core “greenie,” peddling Al Gore’s global warming swindle, and the accompanying carbon tax futures market, which is but the latest financial bubble to be attempted by London, to deindustrialize the industrial world and assure that no modern industry or infrastructure is developed in the developing world. And the Partners are in the lead in the nationwide drive, spearheaded by Bloomberg and his “soul-mate,” California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, to loot America’s dwindling infrastructure through privatization, under the scheme they call “public-private partnership initiatives.” It is this drive to privatize infrastructure that was built for the public good, and with taxpayers’ money, that most clearly echoes the 14th-Century Lombard schemes, which led to the same kind of financial crash that is now again under way.

Leading members of the Partnership, such as Rupert Murdoch, Steven Rattner, and James D. Robinson III, are up to their eyeballs in the drive to install Mussolini-clone Bloomberg into the White House in January 2009.

The Big MAC Roots of Rockefeller’s Partnership

The takeover of New York City by Bloomberg’s Partnership allies and controllers is most closely associated with two

names: Felix Rohatyn and Rockefeller. The Rockefeller Foundation funds and sponsors the Bloomberg-Schwarzenegger “Build America’s Future Coalition.” The Rockefeller Brothers Fund pays for and coordinates much of Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC and C40 planning agendas for radical gentrification and shrinking of living standards—all on behalf of a frontal assault against the very notion of sovereign nation-states.

The launching of the Partnership was directly tied to the brutal looting of New York City, administered by Felix Rohatyn, beginning in the mid-1970s, when New York was still one of the leading industrial hubs of America. A *New York* magazine article (“The Power of Partnership,” Nov. 19, 2001) extolled the group’s use of the fear and shock from the 9/11 attack, whereby “the apathy on the part of the business community ... was blown up.” And an “alliance of A-list business leaders formed in the wake of the last fiscal crisis, is coming together to lead the counterattack.” Regional Plan Association executive director Robert Yaro is quoted saying, “Rather than lighting candles for the second coming of Felix Rohatyn, we just have to move on here.”

New York went under Rohatyn’s dictatorship in 1975. Fearful, reeling from post-industrial economic shrinkage, and meeting a coordinated credit freeze from Wall Street, the city had turned as a last resort to David Rockefeller’s Chase Manhattan Bank, to head a loan syndicate. Rockefeller’s refusal drove the city to accept the bankers’ plan, for Rohatyn to run a Municipal Assistance Corporation (known as Big MAC) to slash city services and crush unions.

Rohatyn brought outright Schachtian fascist austerity methods to New York City, which was on its knees before him. Under his direction, Big MAC sent hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs, including crucial small machine-tool shops, out of New York.

In 1979, with local self-government at an end, David Rockefeller founded the New York City Partnership to make Rohatyn’s looting of the city permanent. Rockefeller brought together leading bankers with some chosen labor leaders, as Felix had done. As seen above, the corporate Partnership members were exclusively financiers, speculators, and a few media or service-sector monopolists, with no industry represented; they became billionaires, flying high on mergers, derivatives, and junk bonds, until the plunge began in 2000.

Then the planes hit the Twin Towers.

As *New York* magazine explained of the Partnership, “The Monday after the attack, the group called an emergency breakfast meeting at the Regency Hotel—the birthplace of the famous fiscal-crisis Power Breakfasts that Felix Rohatyn, [real estate moguls] Lew Rudin [and] Bob Tisch, and [“labor leader”] Victor Gotbaum inaugurated in the seventies. [Regency owner] Tisch [was] there this time, too.”

Conferring with Rohatyn and Michael Bloomberg—then a mayoral candidate and the billionaire advisor to speculators—and under the co-chairmanship of Rockefeller Center

owner Jerry Speyer and mega-speculator Henry Kravis, the Partnership forged plans for a “new” financial district after the attacks, and a new regime for the city.

Two months later, Bloomberg was elected mayor. The group, now called Partnership for New York City, absorbed the old New York Chamber of Commerce, which had represented the city’s business interests since colonial times. The Partnership had become the city’s equivalent of Mussolini’s councils, combining corporate cartels and government into one ruling body.

The 2001 *New York* article politely described the new post-9/11 power arrangement: “Now the Partnership is supplying Bloomberg with the independent, nongovernment-sourced numbers he needs ... just as the Manhattan Institute, the conservative think tank, provided [for former Mayor Rudolph] Giuliani.... ‘The Partnership has replaced the Manhattan Institute,’ agrees Mitchell Moss, director of NYU’s Taub Urban Research Center and an adviser to Bloomberg.”

In 2004, as Mayor Bloomberg hit his stride, Martin Lipton was brought in as the Partnership’s co-chairman. Lipton had been the city’s special counsel for the 1970s fiscal crisis, coordinating with Big MAC dictator Rohatyn, and over the years he has been a principal attorney for Lazard Frères’ merger and acquisition operations.

Bloomberg and Schwarzenegger

Bloomberg and Schwarzenegger announced the Build America’s Future Coalition on Jan. 19, 2008 (see *EIR*, Feb. 1), seeking to bind other governors and mayors to their fascist program for privatization of infrastructure. Bloomberg took his cue from Rohatyn’s recent demands for privatized infrastructure, and, with old George Shultz, for worldwide mercenary war-making; Schwarzenegger is entirely the political creature of Shultz and his circle.

Bloomberg’s Jan. 19 announcement carried the subhead, “Rockefeller Foundation Commits To Funding Coalition Staffing and Resources To Make Infrastructure Funding a National Priority,” and quoted Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin claiming that, “for almost a century, the ... Foundation has supported breakthrough solutions to society’s most pressing problems.... This coalition represents another milestone on the road to policies that protect the environment [and] keep citizens safe....”

Indeed, the Rockefeller legacy has left its mark. In the 1920s and ’30s, Rockefeller foundations bankrolled the eugenics movement, and its worldwide head, Ernst Rudin, a pioneer in “race hygiene.” Rudin was a prominent Nazi. Forty years later, the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Conference Center in Italy was the site for launching the Club of Rome, which called for genocidal measures to reduce the population of the world, targeting the developing sector. Today, Rockefeller money is backing the drive to install Bloomberg as the new “Il Duce.”

Some things just never change.