

Italy Kicks Over the Chessboard

There is more than one reason for panic among the international banking establishment these days, but the results of the Italian election Feb. 24-25 are not among the least of them. The overwhelming rejection of the austerity policy of the Monti government—the former Prime Minister received less than 10% of the vote—has brought the crisis of the euro system back to the surface.

The conservative Spanish daily *ABC* took the occasion to emphasize that “the Italian vote has sent a significant message to the rest of Europe. . . . It could be said that in Italy the anti-European party won. Around 60% of Italians have shown themselves to be against the line set by Brussels.”

In fact, the outcome was even more overwhelming. Faced with no real leadership on an alternative to the devastating austerity to which they have been subjected, 25% of the Italian electorate simply didn’t vote. The vast majority of the rest, with the explicitly anti-euro Berlusconi and Grillo blocs, and even among the Social Democrats, also registered a protest against the EU dictatorship. They have seen where things are headed, as they look to the genocidal destruction in Greece.

While the rejection is clearly a good thing, the immediate prospects for Italy are not good. The party of Beppe Grillo, literally a clown, is simply a populist catch-all for those enraged at the system, with no principled outlook at all. What is best described as a “neo-flagellant” party, is now the largest party in the lower house of Parliament! Since Grillo—who cannot take a seat in government himself because of a criminal record—refuses to make electoral alliances with other parties, the government is stalemated, with no political bloc having a sufficient majority to form a workable government.

Thus, the nation is headed for chaotic instability. The center-left coalition headed by the Democratic Party, and the center-right coalition headed by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, are practically tied at about 30% of seats in the House of Deputies, with Democrat Pierluigi Bersani receiving an electoral bonus, giving him an absolute majority. However, he does not have a majority in the Senate.

The London-IMF-EU monetary establishment is hysterical, fearful of contagion, and demanding that something be done to try to save the system. There is discussion of the imposition of another technocratic government in Italy, like that of Monti, which will lead to greater revolt by the Italians. Among the bankers, the talk is of more hyperinflationary bailouts to try to keep the sinking ship afloat. *Barron’s* actually moots the need for Fed Chairman Bernanke, the world champion of money-printing and quantitative easing, to come to the rescue.

That’s an insane conclusion, one which will only accelerate the process of destruction of nations. What is needed is the determination by the nations of Europe to reassert their sovereignty, ditch the euro and the austerity/hyperinflation program, and get on the road to growth.

However, the Europeans have undergone such a usurpation of their sovereignty by the EU institutions, that they cannot be expected to move to save themselves now. Only under conditions where the *United States* takes the required actions to bury this bankrupt global system, will there be the impetus to permit an actual solution.

Let’s back up the Europeans in the way it counts—with LaRouche’s Glass-Steagall-plus program now.