

RRR

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Zhirinovsky: Yet Another "Hitler"?

by Murray N. Rothbard

There has been a lot of talk of late about a new possible joy, or menace: Cloning, and moralists have been jawing at some length about its wonders or dangers. But we have overlooked the fact that one man seems already to have pioneered in this impossible feat—and without benefit of hi-tech. I speak of course of Adolf Hitler, who supposedly achieved the ir-

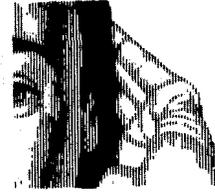
revocable fact of death in 1945, nearly a half-century ago. And yet, he has apparently succeeded in generating a whole host of clones. Consider, that in the last few years, *at least* the following people have been universally hailed—no, "hailed" is not quite the right word—as "the new Hitler:" Saddam Hussein, the Ayatollah Khomeini, Colonel Khadafy, General Aidid, Slobodan Milosevic, David Duke, Ross Perot, and Pat Buchanan. There are also a bunch of apprentice "Hitlers," who haven't quite made it yet to the big time: Istvan Czurka, Zvia Gamsakhurdia, Alessandra Mussolini (a Hitlerette), and many others: indeed, it seems

Oh the geschrei: the wailing and bitching and moaning, from our Menshevik ruling elite.

that there is a "Hitler" lurking behind every bush.

The most recent Hitler anointee is Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who rose to a spectacular victory in the December Russian elections. In the aftermath of Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic party coming in first in an election that Yeltsin had outrageously rigged in his behalf, the American media were filled with hysterical pundits, including "pro-Western" Muscovites, braying about "another Hitler." On *Nightline*, that old Commie fraud

Vladimir Posner, some Russian named Andrei, and Ted Koppel, topped each other in crazed invective. "Like Hitler, Zhir-
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THE EAR

by Sarah Barton

In mid-December, Dyanne Petersen, veteran libertarian and free-market activist, was picked up at the Portland, Ore. airport on arrival from Japan in possession of eleven pounds of heroin. If convicted on a charge of heroin dealing, this would be Dyanne's second conviction on the charge, and could, without plea bargaining, subject her to mandatory life imprisonment.

In her early 20s, Dyanne, daughter of a Chicago industrialist, was an associate of the late Abbie Hoffman on the New Left and served a term on a heroin

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charge in a federal penitentiary. After her conversion to libertarianism, Dyanne, an articulate and energetic person, played an active role in numerous libertarian organizations, mainly in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago. After serving as executive director of the Southern California Libertarian Party, Dyanne worked at the Laissez-Faire Book Store, the Center for Libertarian Studies in New York, and for numerous hard-money newsletters. Recently, she played a prominent role at the Heartland Institute in Chicago, promoting school vouchers, and as their health care analyst.

* * * * *

A tip of my chapeau to David Brock for "Living With the Clintons" in last month's *American Spectator*. David shows that Bill was an Arkansas satyr, juggling five or six girlfriends at a time, not counting a multitude of "quickies," some in the parking lot of Chelsea's school!

Bill used state troopers and state cars to proposition girls; to transport them to assignments; to arrange free hotel rooms ("the governor needs a room for an hour or so to take a call from the White House"); to sneak them into the executive mansion for a "personal tour," sometimes while Hillary was upstairs sleeping; and to send them flowers and presents. Oral sex, he once assured troopers, was not adultery according to the Bible.

Bill used his position as governor to get state jobs for some of his girlfriends. He used his power as president to threaten the troopers who talked, as

well as to offer them federal jobs if they shut up. And as the Ear has herself reported, David also shows that the unbelievably foulmouthed Hillary ("Garbage Mouth" was her nickname) had a long-term affair with her Arkansas law partner, Vincent Foster, who later "committed suicide" as a White House aide. The late Vince, by the way, bore a striking resemblance to Chelsea. Ah yes: the First Family.

* * * * *

Not in David's article: one of Bill's ex-girlfriends is trying to sell a book manuscript in New York City. In it, she claims that she's HIV positive, and that Bill gave it to her. Is this why Bill wouldn't release his medical records during the campaign?

* * * * *

By the way, it's not true—as claimed by the lying media—that a trooper reneged on his disclosure of Clinton offering jobs in return for silence. To avoid technically breaking the law, Bill offered plush jobs for "supplying private information to the White House." Typical Slick Willie!

* * * * *

Shame on editor Jim McFadden for canning his old friend Joe Sobran from *The Human Life Review* without so much as a phone call. Joe had written masterpieces for the otherwise boring publication, but Jim had to follow his Master's example. (Bill Buckley, that is.)

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The entire Buckley-Sobran saga is told in Joe's hot new

monograph, "How I Got Fired by Bill Buckley." It's \$5.00 postpaid from CLS, Box 4091, Burlingame, CA 94011. Buckley, and the Official Conservative movement will never be the same again.

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A worried friend of Bill Buckley's reports that he is obsessed with Joe Sobran, talking about little else, and muttering and yelling by turns. ■

ZHIRINOVSKY cont. from pg.1)

inovsky is preying on discontent and economic collapse." Well, if there is discontent and collapse, why shouldn't *some* leader do some preying? Hell, isn't that what "democracy" is supposed to be all about? It's remarkable how all these social democrat propagandists who control our media have a continual love affair with "democracy." They believe that United States foreign policy should be exclusively devoted to ramming democracy down everyone's throat across the globe, and yet, when an election takes place somewhere and the people choose someone our Menshevik ruling elite doesn't like, oh the *geschrei*: the wailing and bitching and moaning, and "Hitler! Hitler! Hitler!"

Who then are "the democrats"? When Yeltsin invaded Parliament and jailed his opposition, and shut down press opposition and outlawed opposing political parties, our corrupt and Orwellian social democrats/neocons smugly declared, "well, he did what he had to

do," and "that's the price that has to be paid for 'democracy'." The right-wing, or nationalist, forces were mainly opposed to the Yeltsin coup, and so *their* parties were not allowed on the Yeltsin-style "democratic ballot." Zhirinovskiy and his Liberal Democrats were about the only nationalist party who went along with the Yeltsin coup, and hence they remained on the ballot as the only beacon for Russian nationalist voters.

The sudden rise of Zhirinovskiy, to the amazement of our Menshevik pundits, caused them to change their Line on nationalism-and-Communism with startling speed. The Old Line was that nationalists and Commies were all somehow the same: "ex"-Communists had oddly become

"conservative nationalists," and it was darkly muttered that Zhirinovskiy had once been some sort of KGB stooge. It was the heroic "democratic reformers" vs. the evil Communists-nationalists. But, with Zhirinovskiy's triumph came a sudden shift to the New Line: Commies, previously the quintessence of evil, were now really Not-So-Bad Guys who were potential allies in the new fight against the Greater Menace, Zhirinovskiy's "neo-fascism." It seems that Commies weren't so bad after all. Yegor Gaidar, the

Liberals, leftists, and Commies are all brothers under the skin: all different variants of Marxist egalitarian.

Yeltsinite reformer and favorite of the U.S. media, called for "a broad antifascist coalition and a "popular front" (Boo!), and declared a ready willingness to work with the Communists to stop the fascist menace. It was 1937 all over again.

The U.S. Establishment keeps likening the current situation to the 1930s, and they are right:

but not quite in the way they mean. What *they*—the left, liberal, and neocon branches of Menshevism—are all bleating is that Hitler is Back. But the really interesting parallel is the way in which all the branches of Marxist liberalization can easily bury their differences as soon as any sniff of right-wing nationalism, or "fascism," appears on the horizon, ready once again to co-

alesce liberals, Socialists, and Communists against the allegedly overriding menace of "fascism." In other words, as the Old Right said all along: liberals, leftists, and Commies are all brothers under the skin: all different variants of Marxist egalitarian. So much for the Menshevik's much-trumpeted "anti-Communism." Or are Communists only bad when they are pro-nationalist?

The appearance of Zhirinovskiy led whatever shreds of "objectivity" had remained in our Establishment Media to be

thrown overboard. It was a shameless and odious performance. Thus, the *Los Angeles Times* tossed all old-fashioned standards of objective journalism out the window, as it proclaimed, in a "news" headline; "A Threat Rises From the Right," and "Russian Reformers Pledge to Counter Threat of Fascism." Paper after paper, as well as TV pundits such as Ted Koppel, hastened to instruct us that the Zhirinovskiy party was not "really" Liberal Democrats, a "misnomer," but rather was "openly" "neofascist." In short, the American public is not to be permitted to read or hear factual news without benefit of interpretive brainwashing by the left-liberal media. After all, Zhirinovskiy had the option of naming his party "neofascist," and choose instead to call it Liberal Democrats. Surely, there was *some* reason for this other than "open" fascism?

The worst aspect of this news brownout is that we are not permitted to find out for ourselves the program or platform of the Liberal Democrats. Why can't we learn what it is, instead of subsisting only on loaded quotes pulled out of Zhirinovskiy's speeches? On the basis of these possibly doctored quotes, we are even told that Zhirinovskiy has the terrible and unusual habit of contradicting himself, and *Nightline* even assembled contradictory quotes in a feature entitled "Zhirinovskiy versus Zhirinovskiy." My God, is he the first leader to contradict himself in campaign statements? It is not beyond memory of living man when our own Slick Willie was featured in columns

such as "Clinton vs. Clinton" during the campaign, and it didn't seem to damage him at all. Why hold V.Z. [Zhirinovskiy] to a higher standard?

The swiftly orchestrated chorus of smear and hate against V.Z. ranges, of course, smoothly across the tiny spectrum of leftist, liberal, and Respectable Right (neocon) punditry. All colors of this ideological spectrum think and act as one on this issue, from Communist to Heritage Foundation Russian "expert" Ariel Cohen, who virtually brands V.Z. as psychotic, and warns darkly that in "new democracies" such as Russia, "laws are needed to ban extremists." Well, Ariel, in some polities, you and your ilk might be considered "extremists." And what then? Some "democracy"!

Sometimes the Smear Bund reaches unconsciously funny heights. Thus, the *New York Times's* Serge Schmemmann sneers that V.Z.'s campaign autobiography "reads like a parody of Dostoevsky's *Insulted and Injured*," that he "remembers every childhood slight" and "seems to revel in describing humiliations." And the moral is accordingly drawn in a *New York Times* Op-Ed by left-liberal Harvard historian Charles S. Maier: "His [V.Z.'s] streak of self-pity is common to many despots."

Now, see here! Our entire American culture has been "reveling," nay wallowing, in self-pity and aggressive victimhood for many years! Every day, on Oprah and Geraldo and Sally Jesse, creep after creep gets up and proudly proclaims his victimhood, his history as a

lifelong abusee—and he is wildly applauded for this display! And all of a sudden we have to pounce on poor V.Z. Come on, give us a break! Besides, the main grievance mentioned by Schemann is V.Z.'s "miserable childhood in a communal apartment," a lot better excuse for Victimhood than most of the grievances beloved by American culture. Zhirinovskiy indeed is refreshingly anti-Communist; he points out that, in contrast to the sainted Yeltsin and the other "reformers," he was never a member of the Communist Party. But he is an unabashed Russian nationalist

and patriot; and that's the real sin, isn't it, Comrades Mensheviki?

Indeed, while it is difficult to discern the real Zhirinovskiy through the mud and the distortions put up by the U.S. Media Curtain, it is pretty clear what V.Z. really is: a Russian nationalist. And what's wrong with *that*? In RRR we have long celebrated every nationalism: Croatian, Serbian, Georgian, Abkhazian, Chechen, etc. And while the Menshevik Media have been much grumpier about these new nationalisms in Eastern Europe and beyond, they have grudgingly gone along. So why in the world shouldn't poor Russia, swamped

for almost a century by internationalist-Communist totalitarianism, why shouldn't it too enjoy a nationalist renaissance? There are various aspects of Russian tradition that American and Russo-American pundits don't like? Tough patooties. Why should American busybodies have to approve of every nationalism throughout the world? As for Russian refugees/emigres/exiles in the United States, such emigres from many lands have long been a pain-in-the-neck and a thorn in the side of American foreign policy. For almost all of them, unhappy about the state of affairs in their native

land (and why else did they emigrate to the U.S., after all?), itch to suck powerful, good-hearted America into intervening to right the many wrongs of their homelands. It seems to me that an implicit social contract on emigrating to the U.S. is that one gives up, not interest in one's homeland, but trying to use your adopted land as an adjunct for your own desires for the Old Country.

And so V.Z. is a Russian nationalist. And just as it is perfectly legitimate for, say Georgians or Chechens to want Russians *out* of their country, to win independence from Russia, so is it equally legitimate for *Russians* to dislike what they

But he is an unabashed Russian nationalist and patriot; and that's the real sin, isn't it, Comrades Mensheviki?

consider the "invasion," the infestation, of hated Georgians, Chechens, etc. in their own Russian homeland. If there are too darn many Russians in Georgia or Latvia, and there are understandable moves to deport these Russians back to their homeland or else deprive them of political power, why is it not equally legitimate for Russians to want to send Georgians (Chechens) back to Georgia (Chechenya?) Often, Americans naively and vaingloriously feel that since the U.S. has been a successful "melting pot" of numerous immigrant groups and nationalities, that every other country must be forced to adopt the same polity. That is absurd and counterproductive; most peoples around the world hate the other peoples they know best; hence, forced propinquity and "multicultural democracy" in these lands can only be a recipe for a gigantic cauldron of endless "ethnic cleansings." Programs of Serbia for the Serbs, Croatia for the Croats, Abkhazia for the Abkhazians, Russia for the Russians, etc., while clearly not perfect, are the only way to minimize provocations for mutual ethnic cleansing. And besides, even the American "melting pot" is getting increasingly "dysfunctional" these days, to use popular psychobargon.

The Media Establishment condemns V.Z. with one voice as a "fascist" (or "neofascist," it can't seem to decide which). But if we go to V.Z. himself, he stoutly denies the charge: "I am not a fascist." There is only one way to resolve this dispute:

to agree on some sort of definition of what "fascist" is supposed to be. But not only is there no agreement on defining "fascist," but there is apparently no felt need for anyone to come up with any sort of definition. As we have seen with the similar damning epithet of "anti-Semite," this lack of definition is a deliberate strategy. For if one puts any definition on a dread term of opprobrium, then this will necessarily limit the scope of its application. But if you never define a smear term, then you can use the term at will against anyone you don't like or wish to whip up the mob against. Hence, the complete failure to define either "fascist" or "anti-Semite." The professional "antifascist" thereby joins his comrade-in-arms the professional "anti-anti-Semite" as twins in organized calumny.

Furthermore, one would think that if someone denies the charge, as V.Z. did when he said "I am not a fascist," that this should be presumptive, and the burden of proof that he *really* is a fascist should rest on the person making the charge. But that of course is not the way it works. How can you supply or demand proof if there is no definition whatever of this dread spectre?

In the midst of World War II, one of those subjected to a mass sedition trial was Lawrence Dennis, brilliant political analyst and isolationist who was charged with being "the leading American fascist." Dennis replied, in effect, Nonsense: I have never been a member of the Fascist Party of Italy.

Dennis's reply was interpreted as witty and smart-alecky, but it actually contained a lot of sense. For he was highlighting the absurdly loose and undefined nature of the way the term "fascist" was being slung around, and the situation has gotten worse since. It was the Soviet Union propaganda machine that decided, in the 1930s, for example, to call all their enemies in Europe (or anywhere else) "fascist": Nazis were "German fascists"; Franco and his men were "Spanish fascists," etc., as if all these nations and forces were part of the same monolith. But all that is rubbish. The fact that Germany and Italy were on the same side in the war did not make their political systems the same; still less was Japan "fascist." Mussolini, in fact, was anti-German and was very worried about Germany's union with Austria, which called into question Italy's seizure of the German-speaking South Tyrol from Austria as part of the spoils of World War I. Indeed, Italy would never have sided with Germany in the late 1930s had not Britain, led by Anthony Eden, launched a hypocritical moralistic crusade in the League of Nations against Italy's conquest of the despotic slave-state of Ethiopia. Hypocritical for condemning Italy for a small fraction of the colonial conquest that Britain itself had feasted on in the late 19th century.

Italy and Franco's Spain had little politically or socially in common with Nazi Germany. The Nazis were racialist and revolutionary, wishing to transform their nation; the Italian

fascists and the Spanish Francoites were profoundly conservative, trying to guard their cherished institutions and traditions, such as the Catholic Church, and yes their liberties, from the onslaught of the revolutionary Left: in the case of Spain and Italy not only various wings of Marxist, but also Anarcho-Communists and Anarcho-Syndicalists, which were even bloodier and more destructive than "regular" Marxists.

Economically, it is true, all these polities were corporate statist. But if we call all cartel and corporatist systems "fascist" we are casting a broad net indeed, for then major culprits would be Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, and whatever horror the Clintonian system will eventually be called. Indeed, the Roosevelt Brain Trust were directly inspired by the writings of Italian fascist theorist Giovanni Gentile. In fact, if we compare respective political economies, Franco, who ejected the Fascist Falange from his government soon after his victory and who moved to a free market system after World War II, was probably significantly less "fascist" (i.e. corporate statist) than the New Deal or Great Society.

The Left, of course, does not concentrate on fascism as cartel or corporate statist. What disturbs the Left is the fact that all these European "fascist" regimes were hard Anti-Marxists, that is, were devoted to saving their countries, and Europe in general, from the menace of revolutionary egalitarian Marxism. On this interpretation, "fascism" is an

epithet for "hard anti-Marxist," and of course our liberals and neocons, each in their own way still devoted to Marxism, are happy to join those further Left in this concept of "fascism."

Depending on how you define it, then, virtually everyone in the world can be dubbed a "fascist." Left-liberals are fascists because they are corporate statist; Rightists are "fascists" because they are hard anti-Marxists: and if we add the rather absurd term "Red Fascists" applied to Communists by the Mensheviks at the start of the Cold War, we can then include everyone in the world under the "fascist" rubric. Let us then stipulate that everyone in the world, for one reason or another, is and always will be a "fascist," and then let's *forget the whole thing*.

To return at last to V. Zhirinovskiy. What is supposed to be so terrible about him? As a Russian nationalist, he yearns to return Russia to its mighty imperial borders of pre-1914. Unfortunate; but what *else* would you expect a Russian patriot to say? But so far, he wants to induce Ukraine, Belarus, etc. to return to the arms of Mother Russia by eliminating foreign aid to these new countries, e.g., by no longer selling them oil at a subsidized, below-market price. Well, what's wrong with *that*? V.Z. maintains that he is "not an anti-Semite," but he would like to see the news reporters and analysts on Moscow television have "kind Russian faces" and speak in "unaccented Russian." Well, what's so terrible about *that* desire? The major problem with Russian TV is that

it continues as a state monopoly; and so long as it remains a government monopoly, the majority Russians are going to want to see and listen to Russians on TV. The charge that V.Z. is "anti-Semitic" promptly ran into a credibility problem when it was disclosed that his late father was Jewish, and the anti-Semitic hysteria against V.Z. has moderated a bit since then.

As a Russian nationalist, V.Z. on foreign affairs takes a keen cold look at U.S. imperialism. Opposed to the Gulf War, V.Z. visited Saddam Hussein during the war. He is also opposed to Zionism. As V.Z. told an interviewer in 1992, "We're against antisemitism. But we also don't want Zionism. We want a Russian nationalist government." But of course if, like the ultra-Zionists, one *defines* anti-Zionism as being anti-Semitic, we are back in the "anti-Semitic" smear box.

Actually, perhaps the most charming summation of V.Z.'s world-outlook was contained in one of the bitter articles in the *New York Times* by Serge Schmemmann (Dec. 14):

"One [Russian] paper called it 'autocratic populism.' He was the little man bashing the big guys. He played to deep-seated resentments of the Communists who had enslaved Russians, of the 'democrats' who had impoverished them, of the American who were exploiting them, of the Georgians who were robbing them."

Well, why *shouldn't* Russians "resent" their oppressors, and wish to get rid of their rule? And V.Z., incidentally, *really* wants

to crack down on rampant street crime, and with swift justice.

Schmemmann also quotes an eloquent passage from V.Z.'s campaign book: "How do I see Russia? I do not see Russia weeping, I see Russia proud, Russia in which the proud traditions of her army will be again realized, where again talented Russian engineers and businessmen will create the latest technology." How can any friend of nationalism fail to be moved?

Of course, the unfortunate side of nationalism and patriotism is that it sometimes ignores other nationalisms, and shades over into imperialism. During the nineteenth century, the Age of Imperialism, the worst offenders were Great Britain, followed

by imperial Russia. The British Empire, which the Brits were forced to abandon after World War II, has of course, always enjoyed a worshipful reception in the U.S. Establishment press. As a foe of all imperialisms. I was delighted in the wake of the collapse of the imperial Soviet Union, that Russia was forced to disgorge many of its subject nationalities from its old Tsarist imperium. I hope that the former USSR nations: Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltics, etc. will band together and manage to fend off any attempt by Russia to re-

impose its Empire. But the crucial point for Americans is that all this is *none of our blankety-blank business*. Imperial Russia, even if it reestablished its pre-1917 borders, constitutes no conceivable threat to the United States. Our foreign policy should be the traditional one of neutrality in all foreign quarrels, Peace and Friendship with all

nations, and Don't Tread on Me. Period. Our attitude toward the new nationalities, accordingly, should be God Bless You and So Long. And let's keep a sharp eye out for emigre and other special interest groups who wish, for ethnic agendas of their own, to suck us into quarrels that are none of our affair.

But what, you might say, about Zhirinovsky's demand that the

U.S. return Alaska? Well, folks, let's not lose our heads. We bought it fair and square? But for a long time, the purchase of that frozen tundra was known as "Seward's Folly." Let's negotiate with V.Z., if it should come to that. How about this for a compromise: We free Alaska, give it its independence from U.S. imperialism, and maintain it as a peaceful, demilitarized buffer state between the U.S. and Russia, which, across the Bering Straits, is now only about ten miles from home? But, by God, we'll fight to the

last Californian if V.Z. should insist on getting all of northern California down to the southernmost point of Russian settlement, at Fort Ross or the Russian (!) River.

On the other hand, though, I have to admit there is a certain charm in the idea of forcing our ruling elite out of the Bohemian Grove to make way for the Russians, or in subjecting the wealthy New Age leftists of Marin County to a bit of old-fashioned Russian discipline! Hey, V.Z., let's negotiate.... ■

Let's keep a sharp eye out for special interest groups who wish to suck us into quarrels that are none of our affair.

The Virginia Senate Race: North vs. Miller

by M.N.R.

One of the most interesting Senate races coming up in 1994 is in Virginia, where incumbent Senator Chuck Robb (Dem.) has been engaged for years in a mutually destructive death-struggle with his Democrat rival, outgoing Governor Doug Wilder. Wilder, who is out to destroy Robb, is going to run against him in the Democrat primary, and if he loses, promises to run as an independent in November.

All this makes the Republican nomination particularly desirable, all the more because of conservative George Allen's triumphant victory for the governorship in November 1993. Two leading candidates for the Republican slot are none other than the famous Lt. Colonel Oliver North (ret.), and free-market economist and Reaganite