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The Solari Report

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Via Europa
with
Vanessa Biard-Schaeffer



Vanessa Biard-Schaeffer: Hi, everyone. My name is Vanessa Biard-Schaeffer. I am a friend of Catherine Austin Fitts, and it was Catherine who invited me to do the series on Europe which is called Via Europa.

Why Via Europa? Simply because 'via' in Latin means 'road', and the Roman Empire was a big road builder all across Europe and all across France. So if you follow the Roman routes, you find the history of Europe over the past centuries.

I came across one of Catherine's interviews in 2016 or 2017. She was talking about Arthur Anderson and Enron, and I suddenly became very interested because I used to work for Arthur Anderson. That was my first job. I was doing the US tax returns for a European company in Brussels for American companies working in Europe.

I never quite understood what happened after September 11th, but I was sure that something happened that wasn't related directly to September 11th. I think it was something that had its roots way before that date. When I heard Catherine discussing the spirit of time and what happened then, I realized that she had an enormous amount of information, and it was very interesting to listen to her explaining what has happened.

So I contacted her, and she sent me one of her stories, her main story, which is *Dillon Read & Co. Inc. and the Aristocracy of Profit Making*. I asked Catherine if I could translate her work into French because I thought it was so important for the world to know, and it would be great to have it in French. It took me almost a year to translate it piece by piece. At that time I was pregnant. It is also a piece of work that you cannot translate right away; you have to read it through once, and then piece by piece, and then read it again to make sure that it is a correct translation. Also, some parts are very emotional because you realize that especially the privatization of prisons [2:37], you realize the damage that has been done to people just for profits.

So certain parts are difficult to read in that sense, and you can get very emotional for a while.

In 2018 Catherine was in Europe, so we met there in the South of France. We discussed and exchanged the topics we were both interested in. More recently she asked me if I could do a series on what is going on in Europe, which I actually found very interesting. More than what is just going on in Europe, what is interesting to me is to compare what is going on in the US with what is going on in Europe. As we are used to saying in France, “What happens in the US will eventually come to France. It could be 10, 20, or 30 years.”

Now it's more accelerated because of the internet. But the habits and the new form of consumption and the new trends come from the US and then settle in Europe. I will say that lately it's more forced than the natural genuine evolution.

Right now I am talking from Paris, France, in the Latin Quarter, which is the 5th arrondissements. It is where I run my real estate agency.

I am also a trustee of the Institute of General Semantics, and I have a background in accounting, law, politics, and a bit of psychology, too. Basically I like to say that I'm a salesperson, although it's not really what I thought I would be doing. I enjoy doing it because selling is not only opening the door to a new apartment or making people contact each other, but it is more advising. While you are doing the sales, you are meeting a lot of people. After a while, as the years go by, in ten minutes you know what is happening in someone's mind by just asking a few questions. It is something we do naturally. I think that I have learned more doing sales than reading books on psychology.

But that is not today's topic. Today's topic is what just happened in France after the lockdown. We had the second round of municipal elections. These municipal elections are very important because they only happen every 6th year. Normally you have two rounds and two weeks in between the rounds. This time we had the first round, one day just before the lockdown, and the second round was two and a half months afterwards. Basically we never experienced this before – maybe during World War II or during World War II, but I haven't checked. In my lifetime, I've never seen something like that.

Twelve years ago Mr. Hollande decided to just postpone the municipal elections for a year, and that was done. That was kind of a shock, but it was understood. This time it was due to the lockdown.

What happened was that during the first round, the majority of the cities got their town council elected. But for the big cities like Paris, Lyon, Toulouse, Perpignan, and Marseille, they had to wait for the second round to get a final result.

One consequence of the lockdown is that only 40% of people turned out to the polls, which is a very low, low, low percentage. The second consequence is that the Green Party took over main cities like Bordeaux, Lyon, and Strasbourg, too, and other smaller cities in France – which has never been the case before. Now you have to understand that these Green people are former socialist members or they are coming from the far left or they are new to politics and are thinking that being Green is better than being a former socialist or a center or right liberal.

The profile of the newly elected Green people is that most of them have never worked in a company or in the private sector. They most often come from the NGOs or from the administration or they are lawyers. Their profile doesn't match the productive part of the country.

When I say 'productive' I mean people who are making stuff like produced goods and producers and people who are helpful for those who need care or taking care of children. Their profile is middle management in NGOs and the French administration, so I'm not quite sure that they will be in line with developing the economy. I don't think that that is going to be their goal.

I think that their main goal will be to justify the reduction of income and the reduction of investment in infrastructure. Or maybe they will put money into a new infrastructure, but I am afraid that it will be more like windmills or smart cities and everything that will allow for more control of the people, reduction of the number of cars in the cities, and reduction of the circulation which basically means reduction of the trade and commerce.

The Green trends most of the time are aligned with the capital and the big

company interests like the GAFAs and their equivalent.

The reason why I'm saying this is because Anne Hidalgo has just been reelected in Paris. She is a former socialist. She made an alliance with the Green Party, and she has been fighting against the cars for many years. It is very, very difficult to drive through Paris.

To give you an example, ten years ago I could cross the Seine River a couple of times a week. Right now I have to be really motivated just to do that. It basically means that I am staying in the area I am more familiar with, which is closer to my office and my apartment.

I've guessed that the future years for these big cities are going to be more control of circulation, more control of the consumption and the way people behave, and we can anticipate for the next national elections that we could have a very important Presidential candidate from the Green Party. Of course they are very liberal.

It's like the Green themes have been courted by the left while, in fact, the Green theories at the very beginning were more from the right parties and conservative parties. I think that that happens in many countries like Germany. I think that what is going on in France has already happened in Germany.

We can say that the lockdown is the reason for this surge in the Green votes. Another reason I think you will find in one of our best socialist and historian authors, Emmanuel Todd. His last book is called *The New War of Classes in France*, and what it says is very interesting in the fact that he says that it's not so much the inequalities that have arisen in France that have gotten bigger, but it's just that everybody is lost and has been polarized in their own way. So we have different classes of people.

We have blue collars, and we have the 'soft bellies', which is made of 10-30% of our population where you will find teachers, self-employed people doing services and communication, etc. Then at the top you will have the top management which is 10% of the population. Then we have what you call the scuttle states, which is where you find the civil servants who have the higher income in the structure of the state mingling with the private sector – the most

wealthy of this private sector.

Basically what he is saying is that everybody has lot income. Even the one percent who are the richest in France, compared to their equivalent in other countries they are not so rich. They are not the top of the top of the ladder.

What he is saying is that in the middle we have the soft bellies where people have a false idea of themselves. They don't look at themselves in the right way. They don't really look at their income. They have a picture of themselves that doesn't match the data of their income and their lifestyle.

Maybe just to give you a very easy example of this, some of the bourgeoisie – the upper middle class – think that they are high up on the ladder, but compared to their mothers' lifestyles, they are lost in income and lifestyle. Basically they don't have the maids or the people helping them that their mothers or grandmothers used to have. They don't have the level of maintenance or the concierge we used to have because you cut the money and you cut the costs so you don't want to concierge anymore, and you justify these changes by a change in lifestyle. You are more egalitarian and more green just to justify in your head the fact that you are losing lifestyle and comfort, but it is for the better of the Earth and better for society. Meanwhile, the people who really have a lot of money do still enjoy a very comfortable life.

The reason why I am mentioning this 'soft belly' that Emmanuel Todd mentions and explains in his book and how these people think is because these people change their votes very easily. They can go from Macron to the Green Party within a week's time. It doesn't really matter. They don't really know for whom they should be voting, but they are more socially left-oriented than right wing. They are younger than the right wing voters. They can shift from one person to another in a fortnight.

So they are very fickle and volatile, so it is making it more and more difficult to anticipate what the next votes will be. This being said, there are cities like Perpignan which are very interesting. It's a National France who got elected instead of the center and right wing party. The reason why I think it is very important and very interesting is because if you look at a map of France, you have Paris here on the map, and you have Perpignan over here. So it is Deep

South. Spain is here, and so it is the Deep South and where most of the socialist people were located. So all of this area used to be very socialist, but this time around it became National France. It was center right before that. It's a big, big change.

Perpignan has suffered a lot from the downfall of the economy. You have 23% unemployed, lots of problems between different communities, and you can see that it was formerly a very booming city back in the 1960's and 1970's. The problem with the construction of Europe is that the borders have been opened, and the economy has changed tremendously. This was an area where they grew food – veggies, tomatoes, and cherries for all of France. When the borders were opened, all of the veggies and the food came from the South of Spain. Now it's coming from Morocco. So this part of France lost huge incomes and farming was reduced tremendously.

It also had a lot of exchanges of fruit on the Mediterranean Sea with Algeria and Morocco. Because of the regime that was put in place in Algeria, the trade exchanges between the two sides of the Mediterranean were downsized and reduced to a minimum. So Perpignan suffered a lot.

Instead of going socialist to Green, Perpignan has turned to National France, which means for national interests. I think that what is happening is that the larger cities like Lyon, which is on the Rhône River, and Bordeaux, which is on the Atlantic Coast, and Paris, they haven't suffered enough yet to become National France. So what I anticipate is that they are going to stay Green for a while. Either the center of the cities will just be for the very wealthy and they will keep being Green or left, or they will have very big troubles, big unemployment, and very difficult times for the cities, and maybe they will turn National France in the years to come.

Maybe the truth is somewhere in between. If the super-wealthy can arrange to have their center of the city for themselves and just keep the troubles outside of the city, then they will keep on. But if there are major problems within the cities, then maybe it will change again and become National France or maybe another party at that time.

To understand that, you have to keep in mind that contrary to what is going on

in the US, the center of the city is where you will find the wealthiest people. As you move away from the center, you find the poor or more urban inhabitants. I'm not saying that the suburbia isn't habituated by very wealthy people; I'm just saying that the closer to the center you are, the more income you have or the higher the value of your assets are. The farther you are from the center, the less income or the lower the value of your assets have in general. Of course there are exceptions. It's not always the same thing, but this is a general rule to help you understand how the urban areas are organized here.

The third point that I wanted to make was the relationship between the municipal elections and the climate change propaganda. Of course people were afraid of the COVID. A majority of people really thought that it was terrible and, "What a disaster," and they were afraid – especially the first month.

The second thing that happened was that we had a huge propaganda against climate change. This propaganda has been going on for at least one, two, up to five years. I don't recall when there was no mention of the climate change. It is to such a level that it is every day, and I don't see any week without the mention of climate change on radio, TV, or the newspaper. It's terrible. It's to such a point now that it is practically a joke sometimes because you can't really take it seriously.

When it's raining, it's climate change. When it's snowing, it's climate change. When it's dry, it's climate change. When it's summer, it's climate change. Everything is climate change. Some voices are raising and some fingers are pointing and saying, "Maybe it's a bit too much. Maybe it's too simplistic. Maybe we can start to see things differently."

One of these voices is Didier Raoult. Didier is very, very interesting. He is a very interesting man. He is a top virologist located in Marseille in the South of France. He is here on the map, near the Mediterranean Sea. He is a specialist in viruses. He has a research center where he takes care of people in a hospital.

Right from the beginning of the COVID-19 he took care of people and he gave them chloroquine with a mix of an antibiotic as well. There was a large debate in France because his chloroquine was generated in 2020 for any other purpose than what was allowed before. So you couldn't use chloroquine for another state

other than what it was specifically applicable to.

That was a scandal because it deprived the physicians from their freedom to tell what kind of medication or drug they could give to their patients. It was a scandal because people used to chloroquine said, “Look, I’ve always taken chloroquine all my life,” especially when people were living in Africa or countries in the south where you could have malaria and those kinds of diseases. And it was a scandal because chloroquine by itself, as a former health minister of France mentioned, has no side effects if you, of course, take it in doses and amounts that are safe.

Didier Raoult said, “I’ve tried chloroquine with antibiotics, and it’s working fine, so there is no reason for me not to use chloroquine.”

What he said at one point when he was interviewed about climate change was, “Climate change is not a theory right now; it’s just an ideology.”

He has also mentioned the former US politician Al Gore, and he said that Al Gore made a fortune out of climate change. So he basically said on the main French news TV that Al Gore made a fortune thanks to climate change, and that climate change was an ideology. So right now in France you have two groups of people – the ones who believe Didier Raoult and believe in chloroquine and its treatment, and the ones who don’t believe him and are against him.

So it’s a big fight. Of course, I belong to the first one. I think that he is very courageous to say what he says. I’m not so sure about this COVID-19 thing or the treatment with chloroquine, but there is one other interesting thing that I found out on him. He was invited by the National Assembly to testify witness as to what happened. At one point he said something very interesting about the fact that kids were not very fragile regarding COVID-19 and they were not very concerned with it, and normally this type of virus targets the children.

When I say ‘target’, it’s not like there is a virus that says, “I want you.” I am

saying 'target' in the sense that most often children get sick when they have coronavirus. As for myself, I have a two-year-old daughter. It is seldom the case that she doesn't get some respiratory trouble when she gets to the kindergarten. That is because coronavirus is a virus like the flu.

What he said was very interesting because he said that since children are exposed to this coronavirus much more often than adults, it could well be the case that they are less sensitive to COVID-19. That is the only explanation that I find almost coherent. I'm still doubtful about this COVID thing because I don't see how children couldn't be exposed to COVID-19 and not get anything or very little when adults and people of a certain age are targeted.

I have mixed feelings, but at least he gives an explanation that makes sense. Voila!

I think that I gave you the first and last updates for the moment on what is going on in France and in regard to the COVID-19 and on the Green Party getting the highest amount of votes. Clearly the path will be more Green propaganda to justify changes in habit and changes in income and to justify us riding bicycles instead of driving in cars.

I will finish up with an experience. Today I was doing a visit of an apartment for rent that is on the 6th floor without a lift. Somebody came with a pregnant woman – it was a man and his wife. I looked at them and said, "I will show you the place, but there is no way that you can rent this place while you are expecting a child because when the child is born, you will see that being on the 6th floor without a lift is invincible, even if you are very strong."

I didn't understand how this man, who seems to be a very interesting and intelligent person, could have imagined that it was okay to bring his eight-month pregnant wife to this place, thinking that she could be well in an apartment up on the 6th floor. Eventually I realized that this man just got elected to the Town Council of Paris in the 5th arrondissement, and that is why he was visiting the place to rent.

That is the end of the loop. I hope that things will evolve in the best way, but I'm not sure that it will come from these newly elected people.

Hello again to everyone. I would like to add a cultural section to the Via Europa Series, and this time it's a little song I think you all know. It is a very famous one, *My Way* by Frank Sinatra. Actually, the first one to sing *My Way* in America in English was Paul Anka. Paul Anka is a Canadian-born singer. He was visiting Paris when he got this song from Claude Francois, but the version in French is called *Comme d'habitude*. *Comme d'habitude* in English will translate into *As Usual*. Hence it became *My Way*.

But they are very different stories. *My Way* is about a man who is very proud. He did things his way – or tried to do things his way – but recounts the story of his life, while the French version is more romantic in some ways. For sure it is more nostalgic, or it is a different type of nostalgia than *My Way*. It's the story of a man who still loves his wife, but she doesn't pay attention to him anymore because they both lead a life of habits, doing the same gesture every day. It's like they don't have the courage or the guts to say, "Maybe we should do something different, and we should show more love to each other and more passion."

So it has nostalgia for the very beginning of the love that they have together, or at least that is the impression that I got from the lyrics. Both versions are very nice and very interesting and very powerful, I would say. You will find a link below this video where you can listen to Claude Francois's version. Maybe I will add another version from Mireille Mathieu.

Who was Claude Francois? Claude Francois was, and still is, a very famous French singer from the 1960's and late 1970's. He died from a very stupid accident. He was in his bathroom and he wanted to fix an electrical bulb, and he got an electrical shock from the appliance and had a heart attack. It was very sad, and of course, it became even more famous.

He was a perfectionist actor and singer. He danced very well. He was famous for his perfectionism and also for all of the young women who were dancing around him on his show.

I will leave you with that, and I hope you will enjoy *Comme d'habitude*.