

Bush and Mani Pulite

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Here in Italy the Mani Pulite Scandal broke in 1992. It was estimated that over 60,000 politicians could and should have been prosecuted in its wake. I predicted then that if a significant number of the politician/criminals were not prosecuted, a new and more virulent species would be spawned. While all three major political parties, the Christian Democrats, the Socialists and the Communists either went out of existence or were reconstituted under a new name following the scandal, relatively few of the 60,000 corrupt officials were brought to justice. Italy had been celebrating its overtaking of Great Britain as the world's fifth largest economy. It is now no longer even close to that position and its economic decline has continued unabated. The results of the new spawn have been seen in the Neopolitan garbage crisis.

Nevertheless, to its credit, Italy did indict Bettino Craxi, the ringleader and symbolic head of the kleptocracy, on multiple counts. He died in exile in Tunisia after escaping arrest and having been denied safe passage to Italy for medical treatment. If only the USA could do as well. Craxi and his cronies looted and devastated the Italian economy, letting the infrastructure rot. BushCo has done the same in the US, but as far as I can recall, Craxi had only the blood of one American tourist, Leon Klinghofer, on his hands, while Bush is responsible for the death and disfigurement of hundreds of thousands of people and the displacement of millions more. It remains a national disgrace and tragedy that Mr. Bush will leave office having faced neither impeachment nor a war crimes trial.