

Completing the ‘Unfinished Work’ of the Lincoln

On March 18, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., made a major presentation in the nation’s capital, before an audience of two hundred policy-makers from the U.S. and abroad—including representatives of twenty-two nations—on the necessity of implementing a New Bretton Woods System. On the occasion of this event, Helga Zepp LaRouche, Chairman of the Schiller Institute, and Natalya Vitrenko, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, who in February 1997 had jointly issued an urgent “Appeal to President Clinton to Convene a New Bretton Woods Conference,” issued the following renewed appeal.

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‘Almost exactly a year ago, we appealed to you, in view of the danger of a pressing systemic crisis, to initiate a reorganization of the world monetary and financial system, and to orient yourself toward the better elements of the previous Bretton Woods System.

“In the meantime, this call has been signed by approximately five hundred parliamentarians from forty countries, the former Presidents of Mexico, Brazil, and Uganda—José López Portillo, João Baptista Figueiredo, and Godfrey Binaisa—and hundreds of Civil Rights leaders, trade unionists, and members of other social organizations, all of whom are motivated by deep concern over the fate of their nations.

“At that time, we warned about the outbreak of an impending severe financial crisis, which would erupt in East Asia, but soon will extend to the whole world. The Asia crisis which broke out in October of 1997, which is really only the regional expression of the global crisis, has shown how correct the warning expressed in the appeal a year ago was: The international financial system has been poised at the brink of meltdown repeatedly since the end of 1997, for example, on Dec. 22-23, 1997 in South Korea, and again, in January 1998, in Indonesia and Japan. In the meantime, it has been confirmed that neither the medicine of the ‘I.M.F. rescue packages’ nor the hyperinflationary infusions of liquidity are solving the

problem, but, to the contrary, only reinforce the distortions of the ‘bubble economy.’

“The conference of twenty-two nations, which the United States has called for in Washington on April 16, is perhaps the last chance to carry out the necessary reorganizations safely, before the next expected, even more disastrous round of financial crisis. As useful as the elements of the discussed corrections (fixed exchange rates, greater transparency of financial transactions, a tax on speculation) might be, the crisis of civilization in which the world finds itself, cannot be eliminated with cosmetic measures alone.

“If the conference for a new Bretton Woods is going to be successful, then the fundamental mistakes in economic and financial policy of the past thirty years must be corrected, mistakes under which the worldwide industrial and agricultural capacities have been

allowed to collapse far below the level necessary to sufficiently provide for all the people living in the world today.

Only if the world economy is organized along the principles of physical economy represented by Lyndon LaRouche—that is, if the construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge becomes the cornerstone of a global reconstruction program, and thus scientific and technological progress again becomes the chief economic engine—can the real causes of the crisis be eliminated. It is urgently necessary to step up physical production, and to expand and modernize the productive infrastructure of all nations.

“The only alternative to worldwide chaos is the immediate realization of a just, new world economic order. We appeal anew to you, President Clinton, to throw the Constitutional authority of your office and the anti-colonial tradition of America into the balance, to avert unimaginable harm for billions of people.”

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In this issue of *Fidelio*, we feature three essays, which are critical to this fight for a just, new world economic order: “How To Think in a Time of Crisis,” by Lyndon

EDITORIAL

Revolution

H. LaRouche, Jr.; “The Lincoln Revolution,” by Anton Chaitkin; and, “1797, ‘The Year of the Ballad’—In the Poets’ Workshop,” by Rosa Tennenbaum.

In his essay, LaRouche heralds the tremendous opportunity afforded us today, to take advantage of the “back-to-reality,” reverse cultural paradigm-shift that is now sweeping the globe against the last thirty years’ “virtual reality” paradigm of the Baby Boomer generation—the which has been the primary cause of today’s global, systemic crisis. Leaders of nations must act now, to seize the opportunity to overturn the false axiomatic assumptions of post-industrialism, neo-Malthusianism, and moral relativism, and return to the policies of national economic development championed by the American patriotic tradition associated with President Abraham Lincoln. Victory can be won, because populations around the world are rejecting the failed paradigm expressed in the I.M.F. system, and are open to revolutionary change, to accepting “profound and impassioned ideas respecting man and nature.” Only thus will mankind be spared a New Dark Age.

The Lincoln Revolution was the basis for U.S. mobilization for World War II by Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was the affirmation of that Lincoln tradition, still reverberating among returning veterans such as President John F. Kennedy, which set the stage for the Rev. Martin Luther King’s successful leadership of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s. Historian Anton Chaitkin documents the underlying economic policy-content of that Revolution: protective tariffs, national banking, and government promotion of internal improvements (infrastructure)—precisely the pillars of LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods policy today.

As LaRouche argues, to accomplish such a revolution requires the ability “to think in a time of crisis.” Our concluding feature provides a study of the unique, creative collaboration among the poets Friedrich Schiller and Johann Wolfgang Goethe, and their closest friends Wilhelm von Humboldt and Christian Gottfried Körner, in composing ballads—powerful poetic metaphors—centered on anti-feudal,

The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—President Abraham Lincoln,
Nov. 19, 1863

republican themes, whose purpose was to educate and transform the European population, to liberate their minds, so that they would become capable of carrying out a successful, American-style revolution against the oligarchy.

Today, “the great task remaining before us,” is to complete the Lincoln Revolution on a global scale. We must rally behind Lyndon LaRouche and his efforts to touch the minds of President Bill Clinton and other world leaders, so that the President and others are able to rise to meet this world-historic challenge.