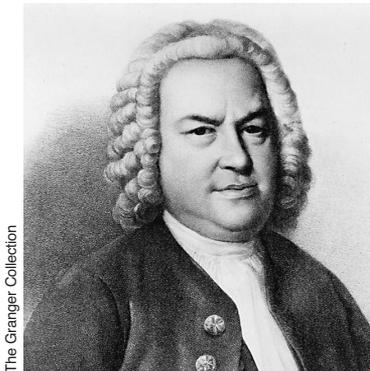


Proceedings of the International Conference

On the Subject



The Granger Collection

J.S. Bach

We have chosen the juxtaposed portraits of Johann Sebastian Bach and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz for the graphic motto of these Proceedings, to highlight the essential coherence of Classical physical science and Classical artistic composition. As Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., has developed the strategic significance of the Leibniz-Bach influence:

“The American Revolution of 1776-1789, was made possible by the growing political influence of a cultural revolution spreading throughout Europe. This was



Corbis-Bettmann

G.W. Leibniz

the so-called Classical revolution, led by the avowed defenders of the legacies of Gottfried Leibniz and Johann Sebastian Bach, the leading cultural opposition to the French and British Enlightenment of that time.

“The scientist, and leading then-influential advocate of Leibniz’s work, Göttingen University’s Abraham Kästner, Lessing, and Moses Mendelssohn, were the central figures in this revolution. Without the direct and effective intervention of these leaders of the Classical-Greek resurgence, there would have been no Carl Gauss, no Bernhard Riemann, no Josef Haydn, no Wolfgang Mozart, no Friedrich Schiller, no Johann Goethe, no Ludwig van Beethoven, no Franz Schubert, no political liberation of the Jews in Central Europe, and so forth and so on. It was this Classical upsurge, to which Benjamin Franklin was personally and directly linked, which viewed the American republican cause’s victory over the British monarchy as the hope for the cause of freedom inside Europe itself.

*“If we trace the Classical influence into the Seventeenth-century North America around the Winthrops and Mathers, and the role of Mather follower Benjamin Franklin, it was the influence of Leibniz, through these and related channels, which is chiefly responsible for the political philosophy and economic thinking of the 1776 Declaration of Independence, the Preamble of the 1789 Federal Constitution, and the 1789-1791 economic policies of U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton.”**

What more fitting tribute could there be—in this “Bach Year” 250th commemoration of the great composer’s death—to the cultural underpinning of man’s political and economic progress?

* “Call Them ‘The Baby Doomers,’” *Executive Intelligence Review*, July 21, 2000 (Vol. 27, No. 28).

of Strategic Method

Bad Schwalbach, Germany May 26-28, 2000

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The fundamental secret to politics, is culture.
It is the underlying axioms, or cultural mind-set, of a nation, as of an individual, which shapes what decisions will be taken in times of crisis, in the political or economic realm. To meet the requirements for political leadership today, at this time of accelerating collapse of the political and economic institutions of the postwar era, this fundamental cultural issue must be grasped. Thus, the conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees and the Schiller Institute, which took place May 26-28 of this year, in Bad Schwalbach, Germany, focussed

intensively on this crucial point, and presented groundbreaking studies of its various facets.

The conference celebrated the imminent demise of the old order, represented by institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, and charted out the process by which a new, fundamentally different order—a New Bretton Woods System—will be brought into being, by the LaRouche movement internationally. Delegations and guests from forty nations attended the conference, including friends and members of the Schiller Institute, as well as leading policy-shapers and intellectuals from around the globe.

A Revolution in How People Think

In remarks opening the conference, Muriel Mirak Weissbach, an Executive Committee member of the I.C.L.C., posed the following challenge:

“The economic crisis which has condemned millions of human beings to misery, is not an economic crisis; it is a cultural crisis, the result of a collapse in culture, worldwide, over the past century. To respond to this breakdown crisis, requires more than a new program for world recovery. What is required, is a fundamental change, a revolution in the way people think.

“This, Lyndon LaRouche will present to us, in his keynote, ‘On the Subject of Strategic Method: The Global Crisis and Its Strategic Implications,’ which will constitute the starting point for our discussions; after which, we will turn to a crucial theme, ‘Cognition versus Information,’ or Classical thinking versus Romanticism, in science and in art, specifically music.

“Some of you may ask, what does Bernhard Riemann, the Nineteenth-century German scientist, have to do with strategic thinking? What does Johann Sebastian Bach, who died 250 years ago, have to do with strategic method? What kind of a ‘revolution’ did Riemann and Bach make, such that we can learn from them, today?

“As you will see, Riemann and Bach, among others, were revolutionaries in the true sense of the word, who changed the shape of world history. They were thinkers, whose works also had a profound influence on LaRouche’s own development. In fact, when we explore their works, under the rubric of cognition versus information, we will be retracing the path that Lyndon LaRouche took back in 1948-52, which led to his fundamental breakthrough in economic science.

As LaRouche recounts in his autobiography, *The Power of Reason*, after he had read a book called *Cybernetics*, by Norbert Wiener, in 1948, on ‘information theory,’ he recognized it as utterly wrong, and fraudulent. LaRouche refuted Wiener’s ideas, ‘from the standpoint of the economic effect of the discovery of new physical principles,’ and, in so doing, came to articulate precisely what constitutes the difference between a computer, and the human mind. As LaRouche was to demonstrate, it is the unique capacity for *cognition*, creative thinking, which sets man apart from and above the beasts.

“LaRouche recounts in his autobiography, that at the same time he made this breakthrough, he was deeply immersed in the music of Beethoven, and in poetry, exploring the way in which poetry communicates ideas through metaphor. LaRouche delved into the writings of the English poet—and revolutionary—Percy Bysshe Shelley. In his essay, ‘A Defence of Poetry,’ Shelley developed the concept, that poetry in the broadest sense—poetry, music, art, and drama—is the driving force behind every progressive process in history. From the times of the Greek epic poet Homer, to the epoch of drama in Athens, as later, with the Italian national poet Dante Alighieri, and the Italian Renaissance, it was poetry which led the way.

“LaRouche dedicated years to working through the way in which poetry, and great art, accomplish this. How does the poet communicate profound ideas? How does the creative process work, in the poet? How is this process of artistic discovery, in the poet, or the composer, coherent with the process of scientific discovery, of the scientist? How is it that ‘Classical artistic principles’ are ‘complementary to the discovery of validated universal physical principles’?

“These are the profound questions which we choose to deal with in this conference, and we are fully confident that at this critical juncture in history, your minds are stimulated to thrashing out great, necessary ideas. As Shelley wrote, referring to revolutionary times such as ours, ‘The most unflinching herald, companion, and follower of the awakening of a great people to work a beneficial change in opinion or institution is poetry. At such periods there is an accumulation of the power of communicating and receiving intense and impassioned conceptions respecting man and nature.’ And, Shelley concluded, ‘Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.’”