

were increasingly stretched, as records of the Assyrian and Babylonian states emerged and were translated, for the Mesopotamian region. For Egypt, of course, the French and English seizure of the “Rosetta Stone” has become proverbial for a “key to everything” sort of discovery. (The “Rosetta Stone” bears an ancient inscription in multiple languages, enabling knowledge of Greek to begin the process of translating the juxtaposed ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics that had hitherto proven impenetrable.)

Discovery of a Mesopotamian civilization older than the Babylonian—the Sumerian—did not occur until the end of the Nineteenth century, and that of the ancient Indus cities, not until the 1920’s. The Indus script, surviving only in short fragments, remains undeciphered to this day, with much wrangling over what the language may have been. (The predominant view, shared by LaRouche in these writings, is that it was probably a Dravidian language, its cousins now restricted to the more southerly parts of India.) And yet, although the constant discovery of still-older layers of civilized human life has been the archaeological rule, rather than the exception, it has been decided, in the service of the British Empire’s Toynbee’s ideological requirements, that beyond Sumer, there is no more—just a long, dark stone age, stretching back, dimly, for hundreds of thousands of years. Just as Bible-dependent historians of previous generations could not conceive of a history prior to 4004 B.C., so anything pre-Sumerian is inconceivable to “politically correct” academia now.

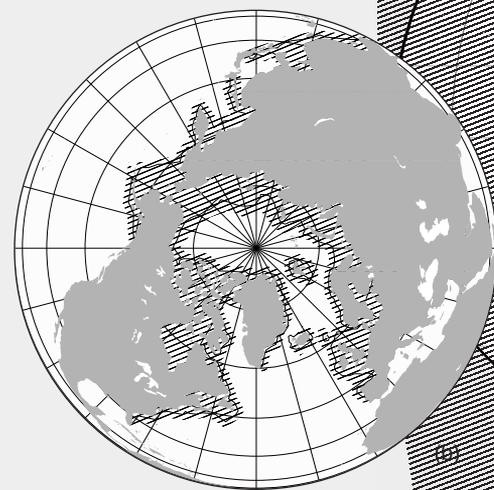
This is not a simple matter of digging deeper into the dirt. The problem is, that since the melting of the continental glaciers of the last Ice Age, which occurred as recently as about 10,000 to about 4000 B.C., areas of human habitation, all around the world, equivalent in total size to a small continent, have been inundated by rising sea levels, to depths of up to 300 feet [SEE Box]. So, if LaRouche is right, that civilization began not in the river valleys themselves, but along oceanic coasts and the mouths of the major rivers feeding them, then the evidence will not come easily. But tantalizing bits there are, and this is the importance of recent discoveries such as in the Gulf of Cambay.

Even so, the issue is not antiquity *per se*, but the role of human cognition, or creative reason. LaRouche’s task in life—if one can simply characterize it—has been to establish the rule of reason in human affairs. Now, in that effort, would it not be useful, to be able to demonstrate that all the successes of human civilized history have come from reason, and most failures from its abandonment? But, how are we to demonstrate the *immaterial* quality of human reason in the process?

Poetry and Classical Education

Just as LaRouche had already committed decades of thought and study to pre- and ancient history, before taking up the subject of Vedic astronomy, so had he done

Prehistoric Man’s Maritime Culture



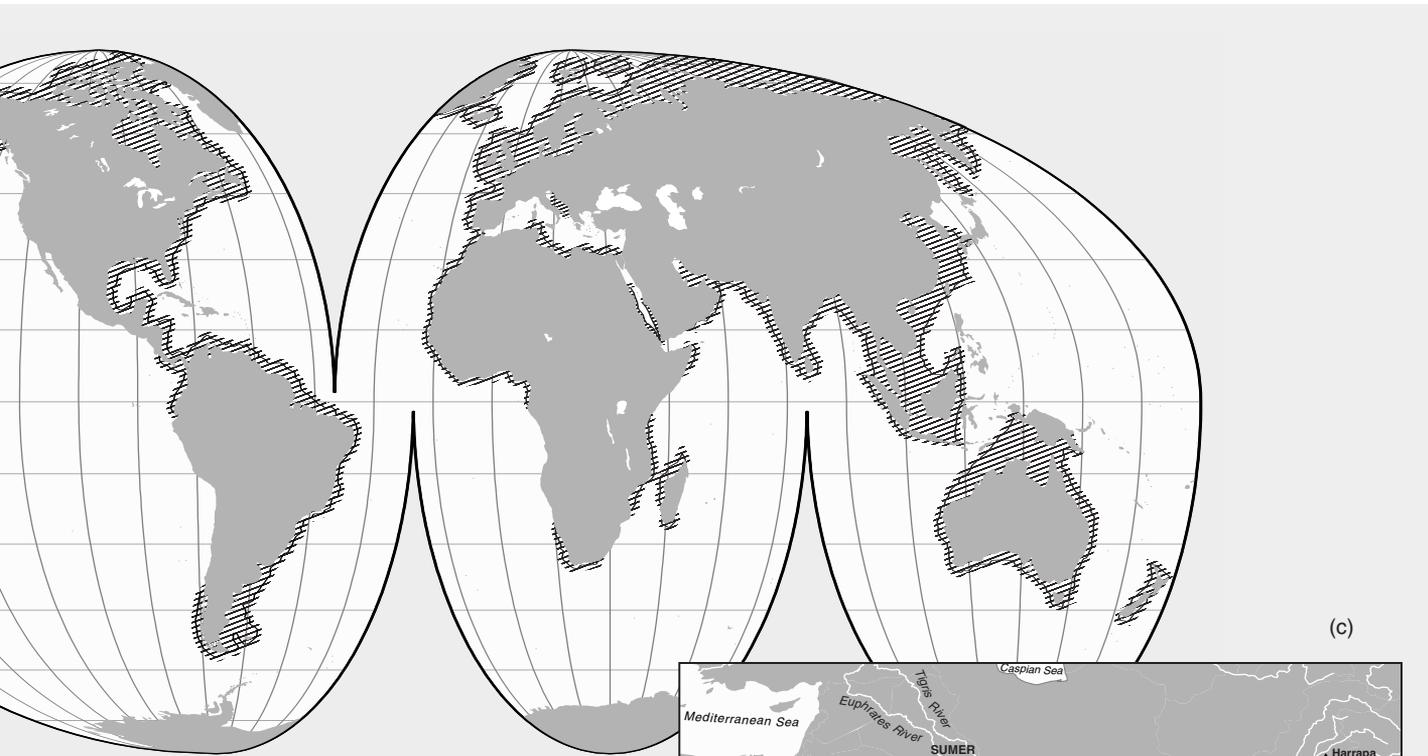
During the last glacial maximum 20,000 years ago, sea levels had fallen by as much as 350 feet, exposing extensive portions of the continental shelves, especially where these have broad, shallow slopes, as in the Arctic and the archipelagoes of Southeast Asia. Beginning about 14,000 years ago, as the glaciers began to retreat, sea levels began to rise, a process which accelerated c. 10,000-9,000 B.C., reaching a conclusion in the 6,000-5,000 B.C. period, at which point today’s coastlines were established. This entire process, therefore, took place when human habitation of various parts of the world was well established—habitation of which we have only fragmentary knowledge today.

One reason our knowledge of this period is so limited, is because much of the archaeological record is buried beneath the sea, on once-exposed continental shelves (since the most reasonable hypothesis for the early development of human prehistoric society, would be as an ocean-going maritime culture, located near the mouths of rivers, and based upon an economy whose foodstuffs derived largely from fishing and gathering shellfish).

Maps: (a) *Coastlines of the continents today*, showing the 200-foot depth line of the continental shelf. Hatching indi-

with regard to the role of language, and, in particular, poetry. This was the second, indispensable, element to which he was able to put Tilak's discoveries to use: It was only by means of the *Vedas'* poetic quality, that thousands of verses could be passed down, virtually unchanged,

over thousands of years. But equally important, the reverse: the ability to *make* scientific discoveries, itself depends on a poetic imagination; and for a society at large to preserve and advance itself, such imagination must be made general property of society. "Poetry," he

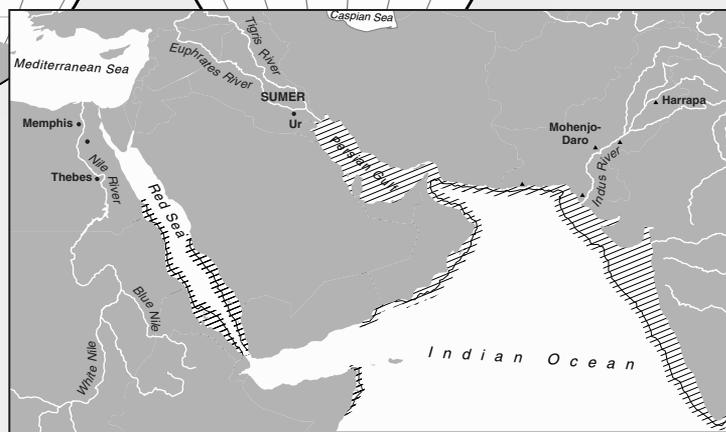


(c)

icates the approximate 350-foot depth exposed during the glacial maximum.

(b) *Arctic region.* One of the most dramatic aspects of lowered sea levels during the glacial maximum, was the extensive area of exposed continental shelf in the Arctic region, including the 1,000-mile-wide Bering Land-Bridge. This was certainly the primary pathway of early man's settlement of the Americas, and has significance for B.G. Tilak's hypothesis of the "Arctic Home in the Vedas." (The northern shelf of Siberia was not covered by glaciers, owing to its extreme aridity.)

(c) *Indian Ocean littoral.* A crucial area for the study of man's recent prehistory is the Indian Ocean littoral, from the western coast of India, to the regions of the Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa—an area which encompasses the seemingly diverse Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Dravidian (Indus) civilizations of the Fourth and Third millennia B.C. From the standpoint of an ocean-going maritime culture, the existence of this area as an earlier, tightly integrated region of trade and cultural development incorporating the Indus, Tigris-Euphrates, and Nile River basins—especially given the



potential of semi-annual monsoon navigation—points a direction for significant breakthroughs in our knowledge of the early origins of civilization, along the lines outlined by LaRouche in the early 1980's. The development of Mesopotamian Sumerian out of the Dravidian language group, as well as the extensive exposed coastal regions—including, for example, the entire Persian Gulf and western coast of India—are indicative of the sorts of evidence available for further study. Similar directions exist for tracing the impact of Dravidian culture, travelling by way of the Indian Ocean, on the development of Southeast Asia.

—Ken Kronberg