

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE HISTORIC BAD SCHWALBACH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# The World on the Brink of the Great Financial Crash

The fundamental secret to politics, is culture. It is 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, it is this fundamental cultural issue which must be grasped.

Thus, the conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees and the Schiller Institute, which took place May 26-28, in Bad Schwalbach, Germany, was one of the most significant gatherings of recent years, as it focussed intensively on precisely this crucial point, and presented groundbreaking studies on its various facets.

The three-day conference elaborated on the thesis, presented by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in his keynote speech, on twentieth-century history as a whole (published in *EIR*, June 2). LaRouche pinpointed the “fundamental strategic shift” which occurred, with the 1901 assassination of U.S. President McKinley, as the key to understanding the paradigm shift in culture, characterizing the entire twentieth century. It was a shift away from the anti-British, patriotic worldview that had prevailed up to that point, “to a U.S. becoming, for most decades of the just-concluded century, little more than a dumb giant with a head of clay, a virtual Golem, a virtual appendage of British-influenced ‘free trade’ and related kinds of policy-paradigms.”

This shift, for U.S. policy and for the world, was considered within the broader context of a 2,500-year sweep of history, which, LaRouche showed, has been characterized by the conflict between “two opposing cultural forces: the Classical tradition of Greece, versus the echoes of the ancient

Mesopotamian oligarchical model, known as the legacy passed down to the ancient pagan Rome.” It is in this 2,500-year span, said LaRouche, “that we are able to discover the underlying, axiomatic forces at play in shaping the, increasingly, Anglo-American-dominated world history of the recent hundred years.”

Such “underlying axiomatic forces,” were explored in a second keynote speech, delivered by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who contrasted the Classical versus the Romantic world-views, in a devastating critique of the ideology and art of Romanticism, as the precursor of twentieth-century fascism (see *EIR*, June 9). Examining the axioms of the German Romantic movement made it possible to understand, how a civilization commits suicide. As Zepp-LaRouche detailed, it was this Romantic movement of the late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century, deliberately oriented as an attack on the Classical German culture of Friedrich Schiller and others, which undermined the cultural health of Germany, rendering it vulnerable to a Nazi power, which it had underestimated. Similar brainwashing is occurring today, in the so-called advanced-sector nations, she said, with the widespread culture of pessimism, and the new violence, engulfing a youth population which is mentally manipulated by video games and television. The solution lies in a return to Classical culture: “Only if the majority of the population very quickly learns how to think Classically, can catastrophe be avoided,” she concluded.

In the course of the twentieth century, otherwise dominated by the anti-Classical paradigm, there were individual political leaders, figures, who succeeded in reversing this trend, at least temporarily. As LaRouche stated, “It was the

election of President Franklin Roosevelt, which brought the patriotic currents of the U.S.A. back, temporarily, into positions of power after three intervening decades.” And, it was the destruction of that legacy, which has paved the way for the forces of the new fascism today.

Thus, a deep understanding of the personality, historical background and cultural outlook of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and his interlocutors on the European continent, is necessary, to appreciate the potential today, for reawakening that tradition. In this, the third installment of the “Proceedings of the Historical Bad Schwalbach International Conference: The World on the Brink of the Great Financial Crash,” *EIR* presents the speeches from a panel dedicated to the era of FDR, which demonstrate the unity of the Classical principle, in politics and art. These are preceded by opening remarks to the conference, and speeches by civil rights leader Amelia Boynton Robinson, who contributed to one of the brightest moments of twentieth-century American history. Next week, we shall publish the fourth and final group of speeches, on science, music, and the concept of non-linearity.

---

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

---

## ‘Now Is the Best Time To Be Alive’

*Mrs. Mirak-Weissbach, an Executive Committee member of the International Caucus of Labor Committees, opened the conference on May 26.*

Good afternoon, members and friends of the Schiller Institute, distinguished guests, and delegations from 42 countries:

I would like to welcome you to this, our annual conference, “On the Subject of Strategic Method.”

This conference takes place in a moment, in which we can all truly say, “Now is the best time to be alive.” The best of all possible times, because, we are witnessing the end of an epoch, the final collapse of an entire system. As the old order dies, there is, to be sure, the danger that chaos, conflicts, and wars may break out. We see the spectre of war stretching across the African continent day by day, as the predators of the dying order struggle to seize control over raw materials riches on the continent. The same threatens in Central Asia and the Caucasus; turmoil is already spreading across the Indian subcontinent and in East Asia. The Middle East teeters on the brink of explosion.

Yet, grave though the danger of chaos may be, still, it is the demise of the old, decaying order, which offers us the

unique, historic opportunity, to bring into being, at long last, a new, just world economic order, worthy of the dignity of the human being. What we are living, is a revolutionary moment in history, and that means, we require revolutionaries — not gun-toting, sloganeering anarchists — but revolutionaries, who have mastered the subject of strategic method.

Thus, the purpose and subject of this conference.

The crisis has reached such depths, in terms of wildly gyrating stock market indices, eliminations of entire currencies, and plummeting living standards for populations throughout the globe—including emphatically the United States—that more and more people are rallying to the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche, for a global reform of the world monetary and financial structures. LaRouche’s call for a New Bretton Woods system, first issued in 1996, has since materialized in the form of an Ad Hoc Committee, joined by leading political figures worldwide. Initiatives have taken hold in the Italian Senate, city councils, and in the European Parliament, for the New Bretton Woods. In the United States, the initiative has been introduced and approved in the state legislature of Alabama, and presented in Michigan.

There is no doubt in my mind, that the Ad Hoc Committee for a New Bretton Woods, will become the institutional vehicle for forcing through this urgently needed reform. Lyndon LaRouche himself will present to us, the deeper strategic implications of the global crisis, which his New Bretton Woods initiative is designed to address. Later, in our conference, we will hear about the historical background to this concept, in the United States, under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and in Europe, in the work of Jean Monnet.

### A Fight Between Two Worldviews

The battle for the New Bretton Woods, is no academic matter. It is not a matter of proposing a valid idea, and debating the merits of it. As we have seen, increasingly, since the beginning of the primary elections in the United States, this is a fight to the death, between two political factions, worldwide, two philosophical worldviews, two opposing concepts of man: between those financial oligarchical interests, committed to preserving their power, in the crash, even at the cost of the survival of the human race; and those determined to replace the old, rotting order, with a morally ordered universe.

Nowhere has this confrontation been more violent, than in America, where forces associated with the financial oligarchy of Wall Street, have gone to unprecedented measures to suffocate the voice of Lyndon LaRouche, in the vain attempt to prevent the American population from thrashing out these vitally important ideas. What has been done by the Democratic National Committee, in an attempt to stop LaRouche’s campaign for the Presidential nomination, in the Democratic Party, is unprecedented in American history. And yet, as the recent 22% victory for LaRouche in the primary election in President Clinton’s home state of Arkansas, shows, their attempt is indeed in vain. It will not work. Those who are trying