

## How Economic Collapse Can Lead to World War

*EIR* released a feature-length video, “Storm Over Asia,” at a Washington press conference on Dec. 8, 1999. In the video, Lyndon LaRouche and associates gave a strategic evaluation of the Anglo-American financier oligarchy’s assault on, especially, Russia, China, and India. The following are excerpts from LaRouche’s discussion of the question of how wars are sparked by economic breakdown, and what kind of policy will ensure peace—questions that remain highly relevant today.

### War in Central Asia

...The forces behind these attacks on Russia and on India are the same. They are a mercenary force which was first set into motion by policies adopted at a Trilateral Commission meeting in Kyoto in 1975: policies originally of Brzezinski and his number-two man there, Samuel P. Huntington; the policies which were continued by then-Trilateral Commission member—that is, back in 1975—George [H.W.] Bush, before he became Vice President.

These were policies which were continued by George Bush as Vice President. Under Bush, this became known as the “Iran-Contra” drug-financed operations of mercenaries deployed with private funding all over the world, recruited from Islamic and other countries, and targeting Russia’s flank.

This mercenary force, created then, still exists. The primary responsibility for creating the force, was the government of the United Kingdom—most notably, most emphatically, the government of Margaret Thatcher—a policy which has been accelerated and continued in full madness by the present Prime Minister, Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

This war, if continued, using mercenaries, can lead to nuclear general war. The major powers principally threatened today by this mercenary operation, are two of the world’s largest nations: China and India; China on its western borders, India on its northern borders.

Iran is also threatened; but, more notably, Russia. If

these nations are pushed to the wall by a continuing escalation of a war which is modelled on the wars which the British ran against Russia, China, and so forth, during the Nineteenth Century and early Twentieth Century, this will lead to the point that Russia has to make the decision to accept the disintegration of Russia as a nation, or to resort to the means it has, to exact terrible penalties on those who are attacking it, going closer and closer to the source, the forces behind the mercenaries—which include, of course, Turkey, which is a prime NATO asset being used as a cover for much of this mercenary operation in the North Caucasus and in Central Asia.

This is our danger. The weapons the Russians have are no longer the large armies, the capabilities we thought of under the old Ogarkov Plan of the 1980s. Those vast armies are dissipated, weakened. Russia is ruined almost, by a vast economic destruction, caused by IMF policies, and related policies. But Russia still has an arsenal, an arsenal of advanced weapons, and laboratories which can match the weaponry—most advanced weaponry—being developed in the United States, Israel, Britain, and elsewhere.

If Russia is pushed to the wall, the likely thing is, it will fight back. It will use the weapons it has. It does not have the weapons to win a war, but it has the weapons sufficient to impose a powerful, deadly deterrent on the nations behind the mercenary forces which are presently attacking it. There lies the danger.

Unfortunately, most people in the United States are living under the delusion, that with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the combined military power of the United States and its British Commonwealth allies—including Australia, New Zealand, and so forth, countries that are really under the British Queen personally, as the United Kingdom is so great, that they can ignore the United Nations Security Council, and conduct wars on their own with impunity.

Most Americans tend to believe that, and believe they don’t have to worry about foreign wars. They don’t have to worry about terrible things happening in Africa or South America, or Eurasia generally. “It won’t come here,” just as many Americans said before Pearl Harbor about the war then ongoing in Europe.

In reality, it *can* come here. I’m not predicting that it *will*; I’m saying the likelihood—the danger—exists. . . .

It’s not immediate, not tomorrow, and not the day after tomorrow. But wars come on like that: You get to a point of no return, there’s still no war. Then, some-



EIRNS/Storm Over Asia

*The EIRNS video emphasized the threat of British-steered war against the countries shown here—a war which could quickly rise to the level of a thermonuclear confrontation.*

where down the line, maybe a couple of years later, the war actually breaks out. . . .

As I shall indicate, the problems we face are deadly ones, but they're problems which can be solved.

### War and Economic Crisis

Wars—world wars especially—tend to come on in a certain way. It's been that way during this century. It was that way with World War I; it was that way with World War II. World War I began with the assassination of U.S. President McKinley, which resulted in a fundamental change in policy under Presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson were allies, in effect, of the British monarchy, in the British monarchy's plan for a war against Germany under Edward VII, a war which actually broke out in 1914.

The war was obvious; it was coming. It was clear from 1905 on. It was associated with a series of international financial and related economic crises. In the United States, for example, where we had the famous 1907 crisis, 1905-1907 crisis. The Russian-Japanese war of 1905. The Balkan Wars. They kept coming and coming. And then, suddenly, there was World War I.

And then there was World War II. World War II was essentially set into place when the former chief of the Bank of England, Montagu Norman, together with other British influences and with support from the

Morgan and Harriman banking interests in New York, put Hitler into power in Germany in January 1933.

Once Hitler was consolidated in power, with the death of Hindenburg in 1934, then the march toward World War II became inevitable. One of the conditions which made this connection, was the fact that the world had gone into a great post-Versailles worldwide depression, which broke out officially with the U.S. stock market collapse in 1929; which became consolidated with the 1931 collapse of the British pound sterling.

And under these conditions, processes unleashed led to war in 1939. It led to war involving the United States on Dec. 7, 1941.

Similar conditions exist now. The world has been, especially since a foolish decision by President Nixon in 1971, when he destroyed the existing world monetary system, and set into motion a new, so-called floating-exchange-rate monetary system—the present IMF system—the world has been sliding downhill overall.

Though many people are deceived by lying propaganda, to believe that there's prosperity in the United States, there is no prosperity in the United States, except for the upper 20% of income brackets. They have more money, more cash. The 80% of the population, does not. . . . [LaRouche also describes the economic crisis in Europe and Africa.]

These are the realities. It is in this condition, as this present financial system approaches collapse, that the danger of war begins to emerge. Now this—the current danger of war came to the surface beginning August of 1998. What happened?

Well, the previous November, October-November, there had been a major financial collapse which had been bailed out with hyperinflationary growth and asset values. That is, the central banks began printing money, in effect, and pumping money into financial markets—stock markets and other financial markets.

So that had led into a new situation by the Summer of 1998. The blowout occurred. It started with the Russian bond debt. In August of that year, at the same time that President Clinton was being distracted by being called to testify before the Special Prosecutor, Russia declared bankruptcy, state bankruptcy.

As a reaction to this effect, [Vice President] Al Gore and others, behind the back of the President, pushed through, fraudulently, a bombing attack on a pharmaceu-

tical plant in Sudan. I believe, now the President knows that was fraudulent; but nothing has been done effectively to correct it. That was the beginning....

You have a system which is intrinsically, systemically bankrupt. It can not be saved. The only thing that can be done, is action by governments to put the bankrupt financial system and the bankrupted monetary system, into government-supervised financial reorganization; in other words, to apply the thinking of a Franklin Roosevelt to the current emergency situation.

This creates a crisis, a crisis in which powerful financial interests are totally panic-stricken, are driven mad by the fact that the system in which their investments are located, is about to be liquidated; that the nation-state which they thought they were eliminating with globalization, is the only institution which can save nations from total destruction.

It is under these conditions that plans to move toward military adventures, even wars, even general wars, and that risk of nuclear war is pushed by madmen; some in the United States, some in the Congress who don't even know what they're doing, as well as in Britain and elsewhere. This is the situation....

## A Community of Principle

All right. Now, what is wrong? What is the policy? What is the issue? How does this affect war?

Let's go back to 1823. After the defeat of Napoleon, and after the British puppet, the Duke of Wellington's puppet, the Bourbon Restoration, was restored in France, the British, together with Metternich, controlled all of Europe. The British and Metternich, the Holy Alliance, were the enemies of the United States, the declared enemies. The British always have two policies. Never try to find out what British policy is; they always have two, which seem directly opposite: They're for you, and they're against you. They're buttoning up your waistcoat, while they're putting a knife in your



*President John Quincy Adams, when he was Secretary of State under President Monroe, laid out the concept of a community of sovereign nations in the Americas, rejecting alliance with Britain: "It would be more candid, as well as more dignified, to avow our principles explicitly to Russia and France than to come as a cock-boat in the wake of a British man-of-war."*

back, neither of which is good for you, either cosmetically or otherwise.

So the British policy was: Yes, they would use the Holy Alliance as an ally in destroying the influence of the American Revolution—the influence the American Revolution had had on Europe. To eliminate American influence in Europe, which is what Metternich said repeatedly, what the British said repeatedly.

But then, the British—Jeremy Bentham, the head of the Foreign Office from 1782 on, and his Canning, the Foreign Minister—went to the United States, to a President who was *not* a fool, President James Monroe, and proposed that since the Holy Alliance powers, Metternich's group of Spain, Portugal, France, Austro-Hungary, were trying to grab off and recolonize South

and Central America, that *the British should make a treaty with the little United States, and the little United States should agree with the British to keep these filthy Continentals out of South and Central America.*

This was the proposed treaty by Canning with the United States. At that point, one of the protégés of Franklin, a former protégé, John Quincy Adams, was Secretary of State under Monroe; and Quincy Adams wrote a letter to his President, Monroe, in which he said: The United States must reject Canning's treaty. We have—the United States—no community of principle with the British monarchy. We can make no treaty alliance with any power with which we share no community of principle. We shall not degrade "the United States into becoming an American cockboat in the wake of a British man of war" in the Caribbean or South America.

And what he qualified as the alternative: We in the United States must keep our distance from this. We must state our policy clearly, and we must wait for such a time as we have *sufficient power* to get the British, as well as the Holy Alliance powers, out of Central and

South America, in which we can protect the aspirations of the emerging new republics of Central and South America. That is our policy.

Now, this policy, called a “community of principle” policy, had been, implicitly, the policy of the United States leadership during the period of the American Revolution, and had been the policy of the United States under all patriotic Presidents, such as Monroe, Abraham Lincoln, Garfield, Secretary of State Blaine, and a murdered President McKinley.

It had been the policy orientation revived by Franklin Roosevelt. It was a policy orientation revived, in part, by President John Kennedy.

Community of principle: What is the fundamental interest of the United States? What is our self-interest? What is our strategic self-interest? What has it been from the beginning? What is it today?

Our interest is to bring into being on this planet, a hegemonic community of perfectly sovereign nation-state republics, which share that commitment to defense of the general welfare, which is the cornerstone of our Federal Constitution; that these nations, which must each be perfectly sovereign—we want no empire, we want no hegemony, we want alliances of the sort which occur only between nation-states which agree that the *idea of a community of perfectly sovereign nation-states, is the fundamental interest of each and all.*

That was the direction of Roosevelt’s intended post-war policy, which Truman scrapped. But that was the policy. *That is my policy.*

What is the fundamental interest of the United States? Is it to find somebody we call an “enemy,” the way the British do, and go out and say “Let’s prepare for war against this chosen, designated enemy”? Should we go out and pick out official enemies of the United States, and stage wars with them, simply to have somebody to shoot at, or someone to hate?

Is that our policy? Or rather, is it not our interest, that today, as before, that the nations of South and Central America in particular, be perfectly, absolutely sovereign nation-states, not subject to any foreign supranational or other foreign authority, including the IMF meddling in their internal affairs. They must be sovereign, as we desired to be sovereign, in fighting for our independence, and establishing our Constitution.

*It is our interest to protect and to promote that sov-*



EIRNS/Storm Over Asia

*In 1999, when the video was made, Russia had recently declared state bankruptcy and was being targeted with separatist destabilization and terrorism.*

*ereignty among these states, which Roosevelt called his “Good Neighbor Policy.” That’s our interest.*

It is our policy to establish the same kind of relationship with nations in Africa. They should develop. They should benefit. We should cooperate with them. We should protect and defend their sovereignty. We should free them from the legacies of former colonial and imperial powers, whether it’s financial powers, or as military occupation.

We should aspire to the same in Eurasia, both with our friends in Western Europe, and also throughout the rest of Eurasia. What we should aspire to, is that Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Burma—or Myanmar today, Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, should all have the right to have perfectly sovereign, independently sovereign nation-state republics, based on the principle of the general welfare; that is, the welfare of all of the people, not only for present generations, but future generations.

To protect their rights, in the way Europe understood the rights of each man and woman made in the image of the Creator of this Universe: *that human beings are special. Every human being is special. And every human being’s right to be special, in that sense, must be protected, and nurtured, and fostered, by an agency which is more powerful than any individual, an agency which has the capability of defending that interest. That should be our policy....*

Our fundamental interest as a republic, is to bring forth on this planet, the hegemony of a community of sovereign nation-states, each of which has in common its commitment to the general welfare of its total population, and their posterity.

Otherwise, it is not our intent to meddle in the internal affairs of these countries. It is sufficient for us, that they are sincerely and seriously dedicated to promote the general welfare, as we understand the notion of the general welfare; and that they understand that we as nations must stand together, against those forces of oligarchy, such as the British financial oligarchy, which are our natural enemies....

### An Ecumenical Approach

The approach we must take, is an ecumenical approach. We must understand that all human beings, from whatever their backgrounds are, have the same potential for goodness. Our job is to bring that forth. To encourage people to be as good as they are born to be; to be redeemed, to redeem the nations, and to build a form of community of nation-states on this planet, which shares that commitment, which understand one

another in terms of these common principles, as Philo of Alexandria attempted to express this. As the Christians, especially John and Paul, emphasized this; as a great theologian, Christian theologians like Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa expressed this in *De Pace Fidei*; as we have always understood it, the best of us in the United States, and as Mencius and Confucius before him and others have also understood this.

We must bring this forth. That should be the foreign policy of the United States. Our foreign policy and our strategic policy should not be “Who do we kill tomorrow?” “Who is our enemy that we must fight?” *War is not the natural condition of mankind*. It’s an *errant condition of mankind*, produced by defective cultures, especially by the kind of oligarchical culture which treats some people as animals....

The common purpose is to develop man, and to build a community of principle among sovereign nation-states, which will attack these problems as collaborators. In that work, typified by our need to accelerate our exploration of space, we as a nation and we as nations, must adopt a sense of mission. We have to explore this universe. Do you know some of the terrible things that have happened to this planet in the past thousands of years? Do you know what happened when the glaciers went into the fast phase of melt? Do you know what happened to this planet about 12,000 years ago, when the glaciers were at their peak rate of melting? Did you know that whole civilizations were wiped out, as the levels of the seas rose by 300 to 400 feet, to today’s level, above which they had been earlier?

Do you know the terrible things meteorites, and so forth, have brought upon this planet? Do you know how vulnerable we are on this planet Earth, because we have not yet been able to reach out and control some of the forces in the Solar System and beyond, which might imperil the very existence of humanity in times to come?

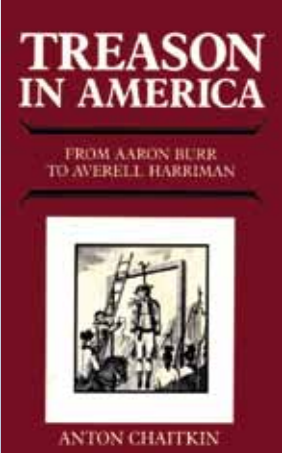
We have to get out into space. We have to understand the principles which operate there. We have to learn to control our environment, the environment of the Solar System, as well as the environment of Planet Earth.

So therefore, in fighting against poverty, in fighting against war, in fighting against the threat to destruction of humanity in the future, we must adopt this sense of mission, and national mission, in a larger sense: the same sense of mission that President Kennedy tried to provoke with his proposal—highly successful, remember—for a manned Moon landing within the decade. It worked.

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