

### III. International

# A Western Perspective on China's Whole-Process People's Democracy

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

*This is an edited transcript of an interview granted by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and President of the international Schiller Institutes, to CGTN, published on November 2, which is also available as a beautifully produced [video](#).*

**CGTN:** Why does the Western media keep attacking the “whole-process people’s democracy”?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** My understanding of this “whole-process people’s democracy” is that it is an inner party democratic process whereby you identify, on the basis of meritocracy, the most qualified people for the job and are the [best] servants to the common good. And I think there is empirical proof that this method is truthful, because China was able to lift 850 million people out of extreme poverty. That is the greatest contribution to history I know of. But to lift so many people out of poverty and also to offer that to the developing countries are exactly what is the crime in the view of the Western people who attacked China on this point, because China has overcome extreme poverty in its own country and is now helping developing countries to do likewise. This is exactly the same mindset, which was the mindset of Malthus since the time of the British East India Company which, as you know, was behind the Opium Wars against China.

It is not because of what they say. It is because the Chinese model has upset the whole world order. For the first time, the developing countries have been offered the possibility of overcoming poverty and underdevelopment, and those now attacking China want to keep such a colonial order. I think this is really the bottom line of the accusations against China. I’ve been in China many times, and my impression was always that the spirit of the people is extremely positive [and] optimistic [about] the future. Therefore, the CPC must be doing



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*Zepp-LaRouche was interviewed by CGTN, an international English-language cable TV news service based in Beijing.*

something very right. If you ask people in the West, most people are pessimistic about the future. So, I think that expresses, in my view, more truthfulness than any of the propagandistic lines in the mainstream media.

**CGTN:** How do you see Chinese democracy and Western democracy?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Democracy sounds very nice, but in many cases, it is a label. You’d better look at the content of the bottle on which the label is pasted, because nowadays, it’s mostly different parties lobbying for their various different interests. I would like to read you a quote from George Washington’s “Farewell Address” as President of the United States in 1796, where he warned of the evil spirit of party in general.

He says:

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism.

I think that is what we are seeing right now in the West. In many countries, you don't have real democracy, but you have a form of despotism as is in now emerging in the United States; the polarization between the Republicans and the Democrats is tearing the country completely apart. In Germany, where you have now the effort to form a new coalition, the voters will not get as a government what he or she voted for, because they form coalitions as they want.

There were periods, however, when Western democracy did function. This was the case in the beginning of the American Revolution, and it was the case with the Fifth Republic of Charles de Gaulle. But unfortunately, we, in the West, have moved very far away from these more noble conceptions, so we are more in the system of

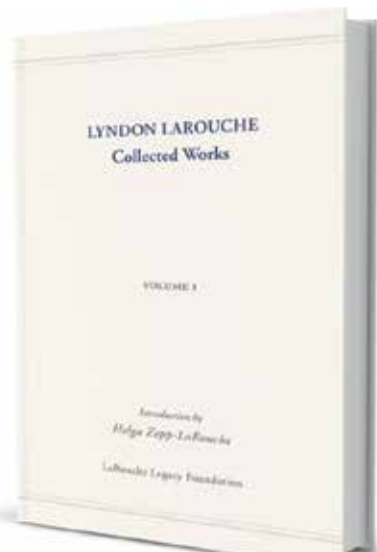
despotism, which George Washington warned about.

**CGTN:** Can China and the West maintain good and stable relations?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** I think that there are indeed different models of democracy, according to specific traditions and cultures. It is very possible for these different systems to cooperate. However, this will only function, if they are united by a higher One, which must be in the interest of all of mankind. I think the model closest to that is what President Xi Jinping has proposed—a community with a shared future—because that includes this idea of humanity as a whole. There is in the West, an idea which is very similar, or actually identical, and that is the philosophical idea of a thinker from the 15th century, Nicholas of Cusa, the coincidence of opposites, which is the idea that since human beings are the only species capable of creative reason, that we always can think the higher One, at a level of unity, where all differences disappear. So, I think we need to enter a dialogue to examine why this concept of the coincidence of opposites and President Xi Jinping's idea of a community with a shared future, are one and the same idea. And once we agree on that, I think cooperation will be very easy.

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