

Eastern Germany's Unique Experience

Helga Zepp-LaRouche was the guest on *EIR*'s Saturday internet radio program "The LaRouche Show" (found at www.larouchepub.com) on Aug. 28, in which she described how and why the Germans in the five former East German communist states are again leading the revolt against a great injustice, as they did in 1989.

The Hartz IV austerity policy is hitting the five former East German states much harder than the ten states that made up the original Federal Republic of Germany, she explained. "Because of the geostrategic policies after '89-'90, which affected not only East Germany, but also Eastern Europe, Russia, and so forth, you have a situation, where in the east German states, you have now 1.5 million fewer people living than in '89, because they moved to the west. . . . In Saxony, there are cities where the average age is 60 years! Now, you can imagine if the average age is 60 years, you have a lot of people in their 70s, and 80s, and 90s, and no youth. There's no industry! There was a complete deindustrialization, which was part of the geostrategic decision not to develop the East after '89." In Dresden, a centuries-old cultural mecca, there are now large pockets of poverty, and the city is "closing 43 schools this Summer . . . because they have no children any more."

When a System Comes Down

"But, after the people of East Germany had gone through this experience—well, it is quite a lifetime experi-

ence, that a system can vanish. Then, people were hopeful. They thought they had made a peaceful revolution. Kohl, who was the prime minister at that time, had promised . . . industrialization, and economic growth. But, obviously, this did not happen, and it did not happen because there was the strategic decision, by Bush Sr., Margaret Thatcher, and François Mitterrand. . . . Therefore the so-called 'reform policy' of the IMF, Jeffrey Sachs, the 'Polish model,' the 'shock therapy,' and all of these things were actually designed to prevent development of the east. And the deindustrialization, which then hit east Germany, was part of this geostrategic policy."

Worse, she said, after unification, east Germans were treated as second-class citizens. Employment opportunities for establishing "new systems, like economic systems, legal systems, police systems, bureaucratic systems, and so forth," weren't being offered to the new citizens from the east; not only were there hiring preferences for west Germans over their poor cousins from the east, but they were even given huge bonuses, akin to "combat pay," called the "Bush incentive." Therefore, she said, the east Germans, rather than becoming attached to the "free-market economy" saw it as just another looting operation—and furthermore, "they now see that this system is not functioning, either, and they say: 'Okay, one system came down. So, now, the second is coming down. So what? We want to have a future for our country and our family.' "

Therefore, the perception of the economic collapse, and the compulsion to act is "a completely different phenomenon" for Germans in the eastern states, she said. "It has developed a self-moving dimension, which does not need to be fueled, because it is moving. And nothing in the universe will put that genie back in the bottle."

German danger; [then-Soviet Foreign Minister] Shevardnadze was raving against the ten-point program of Kohl. And Kohl was completely smashed by the combination of Soviet-European-American opposition to the idea of a German unification.

All right. Then, on Dec. 19, Kohl went for the first time to Dresden. And there, he was received by jubilant masses welcoming him, and that, according to his own account, was the first time that he realized, that German unification was absolutely in the air, and not to be postponed any longer.

Star-Struck Moment for Mankind

So then, at the year end, Christmas/New Year '89-'90, this was actually an unbelievable moment, because the people in the East, and the people in the West, were elevated, like I have never seen in my life ever since, or before: It was truly a "*Sternstunde der Menschheit*" [roughly: a star-struck moment

for mankind]. I haven't found an English word yet—it's like, when the Christ child was born, the story goes that a comet appeared in the sky, in the heavens, and this is called a "*Sternstunde*," where a new age appears: something unbelievable, and everything would have been possible. People were better people for a short period of time.

On the German TV, on Christmas 1989, you had two times, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—normally people would complain, you know, "Two times the Ninth Symphony, ugh, why do you have a repetition?" But not so: You had people longing for great Classical culture. One Ninth Symphony was conducted by the Leipzig conductor Kurt Mazur, and the other one was conducted by Leonard Bernstein, but people wanted to have great Classical music, and everything would have been possible! Because, if you had had a government with a vision, what to do, you could have changed the East-West relationship completely, and ended