

The 40th Anniversary Of de Gaulle's Death

by Jacques Cheminade

The following statement by 2012 French Presidential pre-candidate Jacques Cheminade, a long-time collaborator of Lyndon LaRouche, was posted as a video to the website of his party, Solidarity and Progress, on Nov. 9 (<http://tiny.cc/azcg3>). It was translated from French, and subheads added.

It is a great sadness, a profound disgust, and a new ardor that I feel again on this day, on this 40th anniversary of the death of Gen. Charles de Gaulle. It occurred on Monday, Nov. 9, 1970; I was 29 years old. I saw heading towards us a world in which all those of my generation had to take up battle. Well, my generation has failed. Today, as we see in these celebrations, one can observe the extreme hypocrisy and even deceit of these amateurs, who have lost any connection to de Gaulle's ideas.

In 1945, de Gaulle stood for nationalizations, for indicative [economic] planning; his policies meant that women acquired voting rights, they meant Social Security [which includes universal health care, pensions, unemployment benefits, and family subsidies]. And today, we have privatizations and a war against public services, which have replaced the nationalizations.

Social Security? Today, we live with deliberate social *insecurity* imposed on our hospitals; insecurity in health care for those suffering chronic illnesses! Everywhere, the logic that human life has a price, rather than a fight to maintain it.

Indicative planning? It was then-Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin who delivered the *coup de grâce*, with a government that included Nicolas Sarkozy.

Voting rights for women? Today, there are hardly any women in our assemblies and administrations, and in general, for the same job, women's wages are 20% below those of men.

Therefore, we have a world which is a parody of that envisioned by General de Gaulle.

De Gaulle on Cooperation in Europe

Let's think about Charles de Gaulle, who was 15 years old in 1905; 50 years old in 1940; and 72 in 1962, when he met West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and made his famous trip to Germany. General de Gaulle transcended the anti-German sentiment of his generation and defined the cooperation between the French world and the German world, in order to seek harmony—political harmony, cultural harmony, in Europe, of Europe, and in the world.



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Jacques Cheminade invokes de Gaulle's legacy, in his own campaign for the 2012 French Presidential elections.

[From de Gaulle's Nov. 22, 1959 speech at the University of Strasbourg:]

De Gaulle: "And when we speak of a Rhenish mission and a European mission for the University of Strasbourg, I believe that we can explicitly say that its mission is above all to aid the cooperation between the French world and the Germanic world, cooperation which I see as perhaps the precondition for the glory of future civilization. I think it was this very sort of cooperation that Leibniz had in mind when he spoke about spiritual unity, and also his desire to see the birth of a political unity of Europe, in order that, as he said, Europe should cease conspiring against itself.

"I think this was also same cooperation that Goethe envisioned, when he repudiated national hatred, and observed that this hatred only existed at the lowest levels of culture, and that when culture attains a certain stature, a certain dignity, national hatreds disappear, and each person feels as though the fortunes or misfortunes of his neighboring people are his own."

Beyond Europe, in his 1964 speech at the University of Mexico, de Gaulle took up the cause of humanity. And there lies the connection between the fatherland and the world, between the fact that the more patriotic one is, the more one must understand that one is a world citizen.

Defeat Financial Feudalism

But, today the values of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man have been betrayed. The preamble of our Constitution, which defines our social rights, has been betrayed. The program of the National Council of the Résistance of March 15, 1944, has been made a mockery. The financial feudalism that it denounced is returning. And now we find ourselves in the petty world of money! France's policies are made at the electronic stock market [referring to de Gaulle's remark that his policies were not made at *la corbeille*, "the basket," as the French stock market is called—ed.].

And we see these caricatures, the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic, standing before the pretentious Cross de Lorraine at de Gaulle's burial site in Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises—which in no way corresponds to the spirit of General de Gaulle—to make speeches, to babble, to kowtow! They represent the party of usurpation, of treason and collaboration in the face of this onrushing financial fascism, which resembles that of the 1930s!

Therefore today, if we want to express our pride in General de Gaulle, there can be no compromise with those who either betrayed or have lost the values of June 18, 1940 [when de Gaulle called on the French people to join the Résistance]! No compromise with this onrushing financial fascism, which I exposed in 2006-07, and even earlier, in 1995. No compromise with those who would destroy the creative powers of mankind!

Therefore, given the challenge that history has thrown down before us today, as it did in the '30s, we must, once again, rise up as patriots and world citizens. We must think in terms of policies that are worthy of France today: Glass-Steagall, the separation between investment banks and commercial banks.

Do you know that it was Jacques Delors, in 1984, who delivered the *coup de grâce* to this separation, by establishing the so-called Universal Bank, which allows money-merchants and speculators to pump out the savings banks? And allows them to be bailed out by the state, while the people get cheated. We have to uphold



President Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970) had a vision for France, Europe, and world civilization that has been all but lost today. To revive his legacy, says Cheminade, "we must think big!"

the idea of a National Bank, and indicative planning, of the type to which de Villepin and Sarkozy delivered the deathblow.

And, finally, a "New Bretton Woods," but the real one, based on fixed exchange rates among currencies, which prevents speculation, and at the same time allows funding to be redirected towards great projects, great development works, such as the Eurasian Land-Bridge. This would create that harmony which de Gaulle desired on a world scale, allowing us to establish the link between Asia and Europe, and America, with a tunnel beneath the Bering Strait, and high-speed trains from Lisbon to Vladivostok and Beijing.

We need such ambitions, we need such visions, to bring our people out of the pettiness and mediocrity into which the administrative heirs of General de Gaulle, as well as those who opposed him, have plunged us.

Today, on the 40th anniversary of the death of de Gaulle, we must think *big*. And both to think and to develop, we are fighting for a world even better than the one he envisioned.