
Editorial

Hamilton's New York

Don't look to Washington, D.C. for leadership in the deepening political crisis in the United States. The nation's capital is once again the center of the Confederacy, a nest of thugs, toadies, and special interests controlled by Wall Street. Look instead to New York City, specifically Alexander Hamilton's New York City.

New York City was the political crucible in which the young Alexander Hamilton, fresh from the West Indies as a teenager, arrived in the early 1770s, with a determination to make history. There, in collaboration with other patriots, and in brutal political combat with agents of the British Crown, his genius matured, and he developed the ideas of political economy on which the U.S. Constitution, and the young nation, were based.

In one sense these ideas were not new. Hamilton's scientific outlook is identifiable as that of German philosopher-scientist Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, himself a continuation of the Renaissance tradition of Nicholas of Cusa and Johannes Kepler—in contrast to the miserable social contract theories of John Locke, Isaac Newton, David Hume, and Thomas Hobbes. Hamilton asserted that Natural Law dictated that mankind dedicate himself to what Leibniz would have called the “science of happiness,” and create a political system which brought people together to accomplish that end.

New York City provided a natural base for these ideas. After seven years of British occupation during the Revolutionary War, the city was returning to its vibrant commercial life, and growing rapidly, attracting immigrants from all over the world who were looking for a chance to participate in the world's first truly republican society. When Hamilton was leading the fight for the

adoption of the Constitution in 1787-88, he could count on the support of thousands of artisans and craftsmen, who saw in his economic vision, the future which they craved for themselves and their posterity.

The high point of that support was shown in an extraordinary demonstration on the morning of July 23, 1788 in support of the new U.S. Constitution. Five thousand men and boys representing 60-odd trades and professions showed up, all in costume and accompanied by colorful floats and banners proclaiming the happiness and prosperity that would follow from a stronger national union. The procession was led by the figure of the “Genius of Liberty” Christopher Columbus. Artisans dominated the first eight divisions in the line of march, followed by lawyers, merchants, and clergy—testimony not only to the depth of support for the Constitution among working people, but also to the importance of the organized trades in the public life of the city after Independence.

As the procession moved through the downtown area, towering over every other display was the Federal Ship *Hamilton*. A scaled-down 32-gun frigate, 27 feet in length, it was pulled by a team of 10 horses. A nearby banner of the Ship Joiners proclaimed: “This Federal Ship Will Our Commerce Revive/ And Merchants and Shipwrights and Joiners Will Thrive.”

The LaRouche movement is currently embarked on an organizing drive to revive Hamilton's outlook in the United States, and to get America to join with other nations now adopting it for themselves. New York City is the center of that national fight to dump Hamilton's enemies on Wall Street—and rebuild the nation. Join the fight.