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# Editorial

## *A New Renaissance*

We properly date the radical transformation of man's relationship to nature, toward that of co-creator in the image of God, to the Italy's Golden Renaissance, and its revolutionary forebear, Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa, for it is then that the ideas which permitted that fundamental change to occur, were generated. The breakthroughs at that time, in science, Classical artistic composition, engineering, language, and many other fields provided the cultural, or intellectual, capital upon which mankind has progressed, and even survived to the present day.

Today, as Lyndon LaRouche insists in his paper in this issue, we desperately need a new such Renaissance, building on the principles of the geniuses of yore, but breaking new ground for mankind as a creature of the Solar System, the Galaxy, and perhaps even beyond. Nothing less will do.

A Renaissance today, as in 14th- and 15th-Century Italy, begins with the total rejection of the current culture, which has led to the economic, political, and cultural degeneracy that pervades the planet. In the period leading into the Italian Renaissance, this oligarchical degeneracy had led, among other things, to the sweeping depopulation of Europe through the Black Death. There were many who, in the face of such horror, simply decided that they should enjoy life for as long as they could, or that the world was controlled by an unchangeable fate, or other expressions of resignation and despair.

But a few, epitomized by Nicholas of Cusa, took a very different view. Confident in their belief that mankind was a higher species than the animal, and that the universe was created by a Mind which had also given man creative reason, these individu-

als determined that they would take responsibility for the fate of the human species as a whole. Rejecting the apparently implacable sense-certainty of the degradation of the human society around them, they pushed ahead to develop the ideas which would allow man to conquer his fate, and to discover the laws of the universe on which scientific, technological, and moral progress had to be based. They succeeded.

True, they did not overthrow the oligarchical system as the dominant method of social control. Rather, that achievement was left to those heroic souls who led the colonization of the Americas, and created the first true republic the world has ever seen, first in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and later, in the founding of the United States of America.

There is no question but that the people and the leaders of these United States have now largely succumbed to the same oligarchical principles we once fought to defeat. Classical artistic principles, the belief in scientific progress, even the basic premise of the dignity of the human individual as a sacred thinking being within a cooperative society, have all been effectively thrown in the trash bin. Whole generations have been brought up in a popular culture of degeneracy.

Should this continue unchallenged, the result will be far more destructive than the Black Death of the 14th Century—which killed between 1/3 to 1/2 of the population of Europe—perhaps even to human extinction.

The necessary change, as LaRouche's paper emphasizes, begins in the individual's self-conception, in his or her mind and soul. The LaRouche movement is committed to creating it, even at this late hour. Take the time to think, and join us.