
Economic Breakdown and Global Pandemics

From the EIR Special Report, “Economic Breakdown and the Threat of Global Pandemics,” dated July 1, 1985.

There are three principal pathways through which a full-scale global pandemic on a scale far worse than that of the 14th-Century Black Death could erupt within the coming years. The nature of the specific pandemic is determined by the diseases endemic, or mutations thereof, in the “weak link” areas of the human species; namely, those very areas in the developing sector deliberately weakened by the IMF and World Bank. The character of the coming period could most probably be determined by isolated outbreaks or localized “flare-ups” of one or a variety of such diseases. At a certain point the process would reach sufficient energy density for a “take-off” into a full-scale global pandemic:

I. A pandemic originating in one place and then “taking off” around the world. Historically, certain killer diseases, such as plague, mutant “killer influenzas” or cholera, for example, mostly endemic in India, China, and Africa have demonstrated “breakout” capabilities. Such diseases have the capacity in a very short time, of traveling large distances and killing millions. Under conditions of overall economic and health collapse, such as already have matured in Asia, China and Africa, those regions could readily “donate” a killer pandemic to any portion of the globe virtually overnight in this age of jet travel.

II. Pandemic originating from different endemic



American Red Cross

“Historically, certain killer diseases, such as plague, mutant ‘killer influenzas,’ or cholera . . . have demonstrated ‘breakout’ capabilities. Such diseases have the capacity in a very short time, of traveling large distances and killing millions.” Here, a cholera patient in Haiti, 2011.

diseases specific to different areas simultaneously flourishing. As Dr. John Grauerholz’s “Human Disease Handbook” documents, such conditions are already “bubbling kettles” in Mexico, Brazil, and throughout Asia, Africa, and Ibero-America, with diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and, potentially, yellow fever.

III. New deadly emerging diseases such as AIDS. The most likely scientific hypothesis is that the virus for AIDS has most probably been around for centuries, perhaps longer, in a less virulent form in monkeys or humans or other animals. At a recent medical conference in Senegal, researchers hypothesized that the AIDS virus HTLV III may have only recently emerged in virulent form due to the “collapse in socio-economic conditions” in Africa, and may be followed by “conversions” to virulence of other relatively harmless viruses. It was discussed that the AIDS virus was probably converted from a virus in green monkeys to its current form—a lethal, rapidly mutable virus.

The distribution of the disease into the United States followed an initial entry from Africa into industrialized society through the immunological “weak link” of the homosexual community, but at this point, the virus is moving outward into the general population.

In short, a most lethal viral weapon attacking people with no real defenses can wreak severe damage in a very short period. Then, at a certain moment, the dis-

ease “takes off” from the restricted “high risk” populations to the general human population as a whole. All available evidence suggests that the virus has continued to undergo a series of mutations toward ever-more-virulent strains. The outbreak here and there of different diseases is a function of what organism is in the area. The existence of “reservoirs” of plague, malaria, and other diseases determines the raw material for epidemic and pandemic propagation.

The specific case of plague is instructive to look at. Plague is currently endemic in the Western part of the United States, Vietnam, Zaire, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Madagascar. Two-thirds of all cases in the U.S. occur in the state of New Mexico. According to a leading epidemiologist on the scene in New Mexico, the situation is currently close to the threshold for epidemic take-off. Ten years ago there was a sudden increase in plague from 1-2 cases/year to 20 cases/year. In 1983, there were 40 cases, and last year 31. In this epidemiologist’s assessment, were the number of cases to continue to jump to the 30-50 cases per year range, that might constitute the threshold for an uncontrolled epidemic. Under conditions of severe drought, desert-dwelling rodents converge on inhabited areas seeking

water and food from garbage. Already, the conditions exist in the United States which are most favorable for the migration of rodents to towns and cities. Cities such as Baltimore and Washington, D.C. are experiencing uncontrolled rat population growth. In the assessment of various plague experts, there is a definite potential, under sustained conditions of general economic and health collapse, for the threshold into an uncontrolled plague epidemic to be crossed.

Dynamics of Pandemic Generation

What are the main dynamics of the convergence upon the pandemic threshold?

a. Diseases such as AIDS and herpes are indicators of the collapsed status of man’s immunological system. The doubling rate of AIDS is now six months.

b. Decaying central cities where populations are concentrated are suffering gross cutbacks in sanitation and water management.

c. The food supply and quality of diet of populations have been severely curtailed.

d. Infant mortality in cities such as Detroit and New York has long since surpassed the threshold of normalcy, reaching 25-30/1,000 as compared with a previous maximum “normal” amount of 9-10/1,000.

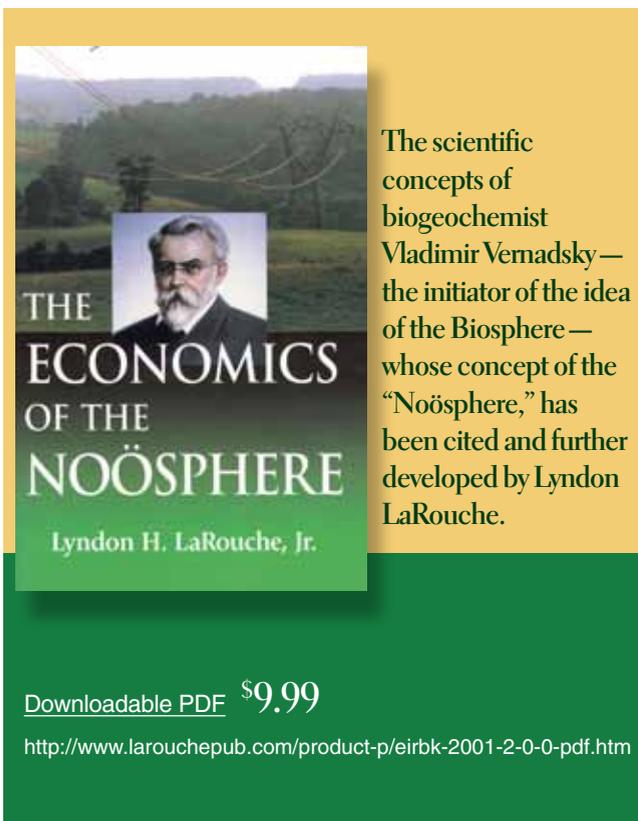
e. The proliferation of plant and animal diseases directly affects the food supply as well as creating the conditions favorable for the proliferation of insect pests. It has been estimated that out of the slightly less than 1 billion known animal species on Earth, approximately 740,000,000 of these are insects.

Under conditions of further collapse of the human economy, the biosphere will favor the proliferation of parasites at the expense of hosts. In short, the dynamic of evolution will be shifted into “reverse.” Simultaneously, severe perturbations in weather patterns and the geo-surface are already occurring—drought, uncharacteristically huge (sizewise) tornadoes, cyclones and tidal waves, deforestation, and breakdowns in “natural” and human water management.

Immediately below, you will find the following documentation.

1. Lyndon LaRouche’s “National Defense Against Germ Warfare,” originally published in *EIR*, Nov. 9, 2001.

2. Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s “Threat of Pandemic Requires Crash Bio-Defense Initiative,” reprinted from *EIR*, March 3, 2006.



The scientific concepts of biogeochemist Vladimir Vernadsky — the initiator of the idea of the Biosphere — whose concept of the “Noosphere,” has been cited and further developed by Lyndon LaRouche.

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