

# In the Footsteps of V.I. Vernadsky

*LaRouche Youth Movement leaders Sky Shields and Michelle Lerner gave several interviews in Ukraine, which have been published in Russian and Ukrainian. Two of those are printed here. Because the translators had some difficulty with what the LYM representatives were saying, not all of the quotations are accurate. In particular, several of their statements of LaRouche's policy solutions came out in oversimplified form.*

### **From Ukraine, with Hope and Optimism**

*From the People's Democratic Youth League (NDLM) website, Sept. 9, 2009:*

Interview with Sky Shields and Michelle Lerner, leaders of the LaRouche Youth Movement (USA), who visited Ukraine in late August to take part in the finale of Student Republic 2009 in Zaozerny.

**Vrinchanu:** What is your impression of the youth and youth movements in Ukraine?

**Shields:** One of the reasons we came to Ukraine is that Ukraine has a very great foundation, a rich scientific and cultural tradition and history, which is especially richly represented in Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky and

his works. As we left for this trip, Lyndon LaRouche emphasised that this was the tradition with which we would have to interact in order to lay the basis for the Four Powers agreement. Political and economic layers in Russia and Ukraine do not, in general, understand physical economics, except to the extent that they are connected to these scientific traditions. The ideas of Vernadsky are coherent with LaRouche's economic outlook, and from their standpoint, both the liberal policies being introduced into Ukraine, as well as Russia's dependence upon its oil exports, are economic follies. Only the development of the creative, productive powers of the population, in the form of the development of new technology and massive infrastructure projects, are scientifically valid economic strategies. Many people in your country are already studying LaRouche's economics and trying to conceptualize his ideas. And that is the scientific basis for our coming here.

**Vrinchanu:** What about the Student Republic? Did you like the finale of the Student Republic?

**Shields:** I liked attending the Student Republic very much, because there were many interesting ideas and conversations there. And a lot of people turned up, whom it would be interesting to work with.

**Vrinchanu:** Where else did you go?

**Shields:** This time we managed to visit not only Kiev and Yevpatoria, but also Odessa and Kremenchuk.

**Vrinchanu:** What did you learn that was new, from traveling around Ukraine?

**Shields:** We were invited to Odessa and Kremenchuk by acquaintances, who have studied the works of Vernadsky in detail. Most people here are somewhat aware of Vernadsky's work on defining the biosphere and noosphere, but few are aware that Vernadsky's final work was to contribute to a fundamental advancement in Einstein's concept of general relativity, extending his work into the domain of living and cognitive phenomena. That was sort of an ulterior motive in this trip.

**Vrinchanu:** What feelings and thoughts are you going home with?

**Shields:** I am leaving Ukraine with great hope and optimism, but, at the same time, great alarm. . . . On the one hand, we are living in a dark time, politically and economically, but, on the other, we are living in a time of the development of great potential.

And I am struck by the level of geopolitical manipulation being directed at Ukraine. One of those organizations is the IMF, whose intention is the economic destruction of every country it touches, including Ukraine. And unfortunately the government of Ukraine is trying to find solutions through aid from this same IMF and similar agencies. The result is massive manipulation through propaganda backing Ukrainian nationalism. This is still going on, despite Ukraine's true interests, and the people doing it don't care about the consequences for Ukraine, Ukrainian culture, and the existence of the nation as a whole. Their goal is the destruction of the cultural and scientific traditions which exist in Ukraine, such as the rich scientific ideas of Vernadsky. This is all being done deliberately.

But LaRouche cares about Ukraine and is not indifferent to what happens here. Ukraine, by virtue of its connection to Russia, plays a central role in the future survival of the human species. The only way out of the situation for Ukraine and other countries, consumed by the crisis, is to create a new global financial system, based on the establishment of fixed exchange rates, in order to make possible long-term investment and economic development, as well as the creation of great infrastructure, science-intensive projects all over the world, and, of course, the establishment of a credit system, which would issue very low-interest-rate loans, and would be controlled by sovereign governments, not private banking interests. This would mean the end of empire, globally.

## **Ukrainian Youth Have Enormous Potential on a Planetary Scale**

*From Molodyozhnaya Pravda (Mpravda.com) Sept. 3:*

This is the view of LaRouche Youth Movement leader Sky Shields (USA), who recently attended the finale of Student Republic-2009 in Crimea.

## **What does your youth organization do?**

Our central task is the establishment of a new, global financial system. One of the main elements is to create an international agreement, which would include the USA, Russia, India, and China, for the creation of a new credit system, to replace the present, dying, monetary system. This system differs from monetarism, in that the issuance of credit is in the hands of sovereign governments, and not private financial interests. The



*Lerner and Shields gave a number of press interviews in Ukraine, including to the website of the People's Democratic Youth League (NDLM). They are shown here at the League headquarters in Kiev, with members of the Student Republic 2009.*

control of credit is taken out of the hands of Central Banks and private banks.

The purpose of such oversight is very precise: to develop the physical economy. Connected to this, low interest rates are needed, for the creation of the possibility of investment into long-term, large-scale, infrastructure projects. Exchange rates between countries should be fixed, so that investments in long-term, 25-50-year projects can be planned. In particular, Lyndon LaRouche has demanded separating the interest rates for infrastructure projects from those for speculative purposes. The interest rate on speculation should be very expensive, in order to eliminate this type of activity.

### **What do you think of how the Student Republic project is going?**

Ukrainian youth have exceptionally great potential. We have had many discussions with Ukrainian youth, and we saw that this potential exists. I was very happy that representatives from other countries could attend the Student Republic. My hope is that these youth should become world citizens, centering their personal identities, and their national identities, in the advancement of the human species as a whole. Vernadsky's concept of the noosphere.

### **What do you think should be improved?**

We interacted with a lot with young people at the

Student Republic. And some of them were asking what music American youth listen to. I told them that I listen to Brahms. It turned out that none of these young people had heard of his works. They also wanted to know what music U.S. citizens would be listening to during a visit to Ukraine. I told them that the last time I was here, I attended two concerts of folk music. I liked this a lot. I wanted to buy some discs of this Ukrainian music, but the young people told me that, unfortunately, it is very difficult to find recordings of this music in the country. And I thought: All of this discussion about creating a unique Ukrainian culture, and everybody listens to terrible dance music from America in the 1990s! We don't want to be entirely stuck in traditions, but great Classical thinkers such as Beethoven and Brahms recognized that the elevation of a culture can be achieved through the Classical development of its folk musical traditions.

The British empire understands this. This is why they've gone out of their way to destroy American culture through modern music and debased entertainment. And it needs to be clearly understood that the globalization taking place in the world today is a block to the process. This is particularly evident among youth, into whose heads is pounded the rhythm of constantly repeating music, and the delirium of dope and alcohol. This is an impediment to thinking at a higher level.

I would like to compare the current state of culture with the tradition which, for example, the great scientist Vernadsky left, as he already in his lifetime laid the pathway for development from our current state into the future—from the state in which people were living at that time, toward mankind's ultimate destiny in the cosmos.

### **What do you think the future of the Student Republic will be?**

I hope that it will heed Lyndon LaRouche's prescription and become a kind of cultural revolution, not locally, but on a planetary scale. From the conversations I've had with the people attending the Student Republic, I think this is possible. Ukrainian youth have enormous potential. And it can be applied on a global scale. On an even greater scale than merely planetary, if we consider space exploration.

*Interviewer: Vladislav Khmel*