

Eastern Germany's Unique Experience

Helga Zepp-LaRouche was the guest on *EIR*'s Saturday internet radio program "The LaRouche Show" (found at www.larouchepub.com) on Aug. 28, in which she described how and why the Germans in the five former East German communist states are again leading the revolt against a great injustice, as they did in 1989.

The Hartz IV austerity policy is hitting the five former East German states much harder than the ten states that made up the original Federal Republic of Germany, she explained. "Because of the geostrategic policies after '89-'90, which affected not only East Germany, but also Eastern Europe, Russia, and so forth, you have a situation, where in the east German states, you have now 1.5 million fewer people living than in '89, because they moved to the west. . . . In Saxony, there are cities where the average age is 60 years! Now, you can imagine if the average age is 60 years, you have *a lot* of people in their 70s, and 80s, and 90s, and no youth. There's no industry! There was a complete deindustrialization, which was part of the geostrategic decision not to develop the East after '89." In Dresden, a centuries-old cultural mecca, there are now large pockets of poverty, and the city is "closing 43 schools this Summer . . . because they have no children any more."

When a System Comes Down

"But, after the people of East Germany had gone through this experience—well, it is quite a lifetime experi-

ence, that a system can vanish. Then, people were hopeful. They thought they had made a peaceful revolution. Kohl, who was the prime minister at that time, had promised . . . industrialization, and economic growth. But, obviously, this did not happen, and it did not happen because there was the strategic decision, by Bush Sr., Margaret Thatcher, and François Mitterrand. . . . Therefore the so-called 'reform policy' of the IMF, Jeffrey Sachs, the 'Polish model,' the 'shock therapy,' and all of these things were actually designed to prevent development of the east. And the deindustrialization, which then hit east Germany, was part of this geostrategic policy."

Worse, she said, after unification, east Germans were treated as second-class citizens. Employment opportunities for establishing "new systems, like economic systems, legal systems, police systems, bureaucratic systems, and so forth," weren't being offered to the new citizens from the east; not only were there hiring preferences for west Germans over their poor cousins from the east, but they were even given huge bonuses, akin to "combat pay," called the "Bush incentive." Therefore, she said, the east Germans, rather than becoming attached to the "free-market economy" saw it as just another looting operation—and furthermore, "they now see that this system is not functioning, either, and they say: 'Okay, one system came down. So, now, the second is coming down. So what? We want to have a future for our country and our family.' "

Therefore, the perception of the economic collapse, and the compulsion to act is "a completely different phenomenon" for Germans in the eastern states, she said. "It has developed a self-moving dimension, which does not need to be fueled, because it is moving. And nothing in the universe will put that genie back in the bottle."