

Earth's Next 50 Years: Your Generation Crucial

Here is the transcript of Lyndon LaRouche's opening remarks by phone to the LaRouche Youth Movement cadre school in Düsseldorf, Germany, on May 7, 2005.

I have just completed a paper which is entitled, "The Revolutionary Aspect of the LaRouche Method" [see *EIR*, May 13], which deals essentially with looking at the current world situation, especially the things like the onrushing collapse of Ford and General Motors, from a psychological standpoint. That is, to emphasize the mental disorders among governments and leading circles of people, which have been responsible for, in the one case, getting us into this mess, which has been going on for over four years; and in the second instance, for failing to admit, recognize, and do something about this mess.

So, I'm looking at the mental state, especially of the United States and Europe—a defective mental state, which is responsible for these parts of the world, in continuing the present policy which is called "globalization." And it is globalization, which is expressed by the current bankruptcy, in fact, of both General Motors and Ford, and the spread of that problem into other parts of the world, as we see in the case of Opel, for example, in Germany, and you see the case of the Chrysler connection (even though Chrysler's not yet gone into the hole) to Daimler Benz and so forth.

So, this is the situation. We're now at the point, where an immediate, general collapse of the world monetary-financial system is imminent. It could be next week, starting after Monday. Because General Motors, Ford, and other things which are in the same category—that the combination of these, is more than sufficient as a financial explosive charge, to set off chain-reactions which will bring down the whole system.

I do not assure you that that will happen next week. But I *do* assure you that it *could* happen next week, that all the preconditions for it now exist, and have existed for several weeks past. So, it can happen any time. And at this point, the world is ill-prepared to deal competently with the onset of this crisis. Despite the meetings in Moscow, and the celebration of the conclusion of what is called "World War II," despite those things, that is an interesting discussion, significant. But that is not the key to the current period of history; that is, the current immediate weeks and even days of history.

Center of Current History

The center of the current days of history *is in the United States*, and is located most immediately, in the immediate

relationship between the United States on the one side, and Asia and Europe on the other. Because this is where the decision will have to be made.

For example, China and India are major nations, because of their population, and because they are, in a sense, developing nations. *But*, the fact that each of these nations has about 70% of its population in extreme poverty—with no immediate prospect for an improvement in the condition of the extremely poor of India, the 70%; and a very poor prospect, unless some changes are made, for the poor of China. So, the center of power *is* in the United States, and in Europe, and to some degree in Japan and so forth, in other nations, which are truly industrialized nations.

Also, the collapse of the world is centered in the internal problems and errors of policy of governments and recent tradition, in the same countries: Europe, United States, Japan, and so forth—not in these other countries, the so-called developing countries.

The problem, the decision to be made to get out of this mess, will come from the United States, primarily; from Europe, from Japan, and a few other countries, which are major countries; that is, well-developed industrial powers. It will not come, initially, from other parts of the world. Also, the failure, if it occurs, will come from the most-developed parts of the world.

So therefore, the relationship between Europe and the United States has a very special quality, in that sense. And the recent elections in the United Kingdom are also relevant here, because we understand that Mr. Blair may not be—even though he's just been re-elected, his government's been re-elected so to speak—he is not secure. He might be out of there, in short order, even by a tumult within his own Labour Party. And he has a very weak margin of governing, under present world conditions. You could imagine what the effect would be on the United Kingdom's policies, of the collapse which is likely to occur at any moment right now.

So, that's the general situation.

Now, let's get as quickly as possible to our situation: I've covered a lot of it in this paper, which is fairly lengthy. . . .

Mental Defects in U.S. and Europe

But, I posed the key decisions to be made in that paper, and in some papers which have preceded this, which you may have noticed over the recent period. I've been writing quite busily over recent months, in trying to get a package out, which is the equivalent of a set of volumes, and this includes some of the things I wrote during the period of the election campaign, and afterward: to get out a package which represents conceptually an idea of *what has to be done, now* with this world, which is in danger of going into a prolonged dark age. What do we do? And so, this is the latest one on this, and as I said just a moment ago, it emphasizes looking at the problem before us, from the standpoint of the mental defects of the governments and ruling, leading strata, in particular, of especially, nations of the United States, and of Europe,

especially Western Europe.

So, these mental defects are the standpoint from which I wrote this particular paper. It's not really the idea of cheering, of praising these defects, or admiring them, but of correcting them. And sometimes the best way to correct an error, is not to avoid speaking about it, but, rather, on the other hand, to go right at it and attack it.

Now, just on the United States side itself: I have a problem here in the United States. The problem is largely a problem of the Baby-Boomer generation. Now, the Baby-Boomers are not in a sense responsible for themselves. That is, they are not mentally responsible for their own behavior. Because, what happened in, especially in Western Europe—less so in Eastern [Europe], and in Eastern Germany, than in Western Germany—at the close of the war, after Roosevelt had died, the United States and Britain went on an insane course, looking for a war, then, with the Soviet Union. The purpose of that effort, under Truman—it was a right-wing turn in the United States; and there was a right-wing wave of terror, in the late 1940s *inside* the United States. It was a wave of terror, directed, chiefly—not against the Soviet Union, though that was the appearance of the thing—but chiefly against the Franklin Roosevelt legacy in the United States itself.

These were Roosevelt-haters. The U.S. faction, and the British faction of Roosevelt-haters, were the same people that had put Hitler into power in the first place, in Germany, and the other fascists of Europe, in the 1920s and 1930s.

These people, in the United States and Britain, had turned against Hitler, whom they'd put into power, only because Hitler had decided to move to attack westward first, against France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and so forth, and the United Kingdom, rather than against the Soviet Union. And thus, the negotiations between Stalin and Ribbentrop, and so forth, in the 1930s, had tipped off the British and others to the fact that Hitler was not going to go eastward first, which is what they intended he should do, and in which they were going to support him, at least up to the time he got into trouble in the Soviet Union; but he was going to attack westward first. And therefore, you had factions, inside particularly the United Kingdom, and inside the United States, who had been pro-Hitler up to the middle of the 1930s, who suddenly began to become anti-Hitler, not because they disagreed with Hitler's style inside Germany, or inside continental Europe; but, because he was going in a way which they considered a threat to the Anglo-American-Commonwealth influence and interest.

So, that was the reason.

Now, once Hitler surrendered, by virtue of dying by sui-



The right-wing turn engineered during the Truman Presidency was a wave of terror directed chiefly against the Franklin Roosevelt legacy in the United States itself. Shown here are President Truman and Winston Churchill at their departure to Fulton, Missouri, where Churchill delivered his Iron Curtain speech, which set the stage for the Cold War.

cide, as we celebrated that a few days ago, once that had happened, the pro-Nazi side of the financier-oligarchy inside the United Kingdom, inside the United States, and inside continental Europe, came to the fore. The real financial interests which had been behind Hitler, on the continent of Europe, which had been part of the ownership of the Nazi system under Hitler, were protected, in large degree. Some individual Nazis who were conspicuous, and so forth, were given bad treatment. That was the cover story. But the basic financier interest behind putting Hitler into power, was barely touched. As a matter of fact, most of it was kept alive, and was used as a part of the post-war system.

So, that's what Truman represented. That's what was represented in various trends inside Europe, in terms of this conflict with the Soviet Union.

The change occurred, of course, when the Soviet Union developed a thermonuclear weapon, which was capable, where the United States did not yet have one. So, at that point, the idea of going to preventive nuclear war against the Soviet Union sort of "went by the boards." And we went into this long phase, of a thermonuclear standoff; it was sometimes called "détente" or something like that, between the Soviet forces and the Anglo-American forces.

The Anti-Franklin Roosevelt Tradition

That was the system. That's what happened to us.

Now, in this period, to get to the point about the Baby-Boomers—in this period, the major operation inside Western

Europe, and inside the United States, was to produce a cultural change in the populations, which would eliminate not only the Roosevelt tradition, but eliminate the cultural tradition of Europe and the Americas, on which the Roosevelt accomplishment had been premised. They were going to eliminate the factor of U.S. history, that is, the U.S. principle of U.S. history, eliminate that, eradicate that, by a gigantic brainwashing operation, which was known as the Congress for Cultural Freedom.

Now, you in Germany will notice this when you look at certain differences in the way of thinking, in the Eastern part of Germany, and the Western. The people in the Western part of Germany, as in France and elsewhere, were brainwashed massively, by this existentialist propaganda of the Congress for Cultural Freedom. The Congress for Cultural Freedom was practically the occupying power that governed Germany, up until the time of reunification! Whereas in the East, the Soviets had a different policy: They were not opposed to Classical German culture, which was being destroyed in the Western part of Germany, as an extension of the Congress for Cultural Freedom. The Russians, the Soviets, in order to try to maintain their position in Eastern Germany, actually favored many aspects of German Classical culture. They didn't like the real stuff; but, the culture, the music and so forth, the Soviets said, "This is German culture. Therefore, we work with German culture." And therefore, the East Germans were not brainwashed in the same specific way that the West Germans were brainwashed! Or, the way that people in the United States were brainwashed.

So, this was the problem. Now, what was intended in this process, and it was carried to a new phase with the collapse of the Soviet Union, what was intended was to eradicate the influence of the United States and what it represented, in terms of European civilization, for the planet. Not that it was, that they were concerned so much about the United States, itself—they were. But they wanted to eliminate Classical European culture, the Classical European culture, upon which the modern nation-state, in which a nation-state society is based on the General Welfare principle, would continue to run most parts of the world. So, they were out to go back to an imperial form, of a Venetian-style imperial form, much like that of the time from about 1000 A.D.-1400 A.D., in which Europe was dominated by an alliance between the Venetian financier cartel and the Norman chivalry, the period of the Crusades. Which collapsed, of course—the 14th-Century new dark age—as a bankruptcy collapse, a bankruptcy very much like the international bankruptcy which now threatens the world as a whole, at this particular moment.

So, that's our situation.

And thus, we've come to the point, because of the brainwashing, of the post-war period, the brainwashing which actually brought the right-wing in—and a lot of people who are called "left wing," like the Greenies, are actually right wing, because they are an extension of the policies of the Congress



The brainwashing of the post-war period brought the right-wing in—including the Greenies!—to destroy the Classical culture of Europe and the United States. The Greenies are the most extreme expression of the anti-civilization faction. Here: an anti-nuclear demonstration in Wiesbaden, Germany.

for Culture Freedom, whose aim was to destroy the Classical culture of Europe and the United States. And the Greenies are the most extreme expression, in terms of the general (apart from some odd creatures, here and there), but the most extreme expression of the anti-civilization faction.

And if this comes to the fore right now, as you look in Germany, France, and the United States, we are now in a situation where we have to go to a large-scale implementation of the development of nuclear power, and related things, and other programs, which are all—these programs, every program which might mean an economic recovery, in Europe or the United States, would mean eliminating all of the leading features of the ideology of the Greenies and the similar countercultural types, from influence over the policies of government.

So, you see in that way, what the problem is. And that is a symptom of the sickness which I address in this paper, which was now just in the process of being published. That's what our situation is.

Now, the other aspect of this, involves the youth movement. As I said, the generation which are called the Baby-Boomers, in Europe and in the United States, were brainwashed. Especially those in Western Europe, are those who were involved in Western-run anti-Communist movements or anti-Soviet movements in Eastern Europe. These people were the ones who were the most brainwashed, in the post-war period.

The result of that brainwashing, which was the real target, was not the Soviet Union as such; the real target of this brainwashing, of the populations and institutions of the United States and Western Europe, during that period—that long period from the end of the war into the present time—was to eliminate the factor of European Classical civilization. The Classical civilization upon which the development of Europe, from especially the developments which occurred from the 15th Century on, and the emergence of the United States and so forth, on which these things were based.

Defective Cultural Conditioning

So, that's our crisis. You have a cultural condition, which is the recently hegemonic cultural tradition, in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere, which is the cause for the present, onrushing collapse of the world monetary-financial and economic system.

And therefore, to get out of this mess, you have to dump those ideas, to which Western Europe, the United States, and elsewhere, have been conditioned as the acceptable ideas for all of the past half-century. More than half of a century. That is not exactly an easy problem.

Now, therefore, the Baby-Boomers, who were conditioned in the late 1940s, especially the 1950s, in the propaganda, and the radiation of the propaganda of the Congress for Cultural Freedom—they were brainwashed to the degree that they never have known, in their adult life, a period in which a Classical cultural tradition was the hegemonic tradition running society. As the Baby-Boomer generation, in the course of the 1970s, moved out of being a youth movement, into becoming more and more the population taking over the secondary, and now the primary positions of official, elected positions in government, in industry, and so forth, the Baby-Boomer generation has never known the experience of running society, in the same way. And that's why we're in the mess we're in!

Now, the Baby-Boomer generation now knows—and it has come since the collapse of the Soviet system—has come to the point some of them call “the end of history.” For the Baby-Boomer generation, the war against the Soviet Union, and from the Soviet side, the reciprocation, was the issue of history: to finally eliminate the enemy; to eliminate Communism! to eliminate the Soviet Union! to crush China! and so forth. These were the objectives of the generation which was conditioned as the Baby-Boomer generation. All the other values, the Classical values, the defending this and that, was

all eliminated. It was eliminated by existentialist propaganda. And this thing took over.

So now, when the Soviet Union collapsed, this was not a time for rejoicing and getting on with real business. No! The business was now, “History has come to an end.” For these fellows, as the extreme case of the case of Francis Fukuyama, the State Department guy who wrote the book, on *The End of History*, and the article, for these guys, the objective was, “We had to establish a U.S.-, or an Anglo-Saxon world empire!” An empire modelled upon the—actually, the feudal empire of the period of about 1000 to 1400 A.D. in Europe. This kind of thing.

It's your generation that is going to carry this planet through the next quarter-century, and half-century: Your generation. You are responsible. And the Old Geezer, while he's around, is going to help you do it.

This was their objective! They had no objective! The Baby-Boomer generation had no embedded, cultural objective, beyond the defeat of the Soviet Union. That had been what they had been raised to; that's how they rose to positions of influence in society. That's how they became the government, because they were organized around this issue: the defeat and crushing of the Soviet Union. So, when the Soviet Union disintegrated, the enemy had disintegrated! And when the enemy had disintegrated, the purpose for their existence had disintegrated.

So, now you see Baby-Boomers sitting there, going through life-styles, escapist life-styles. It doesn't mean they're rich—many of them are not. But they have a life-style they've developed, and they live through that life-style. And they become enraged if that ritual life-style is disturbed. Because they have no other purpose in life! They want to experience a comfortable life-style. And they wish that death would overtake them by surprise, so they would never actually feel the experience of dying. They have no purpose beyond their present life-styles—that is, no real purpose. And you see that.

Mission for the Youth

Whereas, the conflict with the younger generation, your generation, is the fact that you are at the beginning stage of your adult life. The future, for the next 50 years (if the world doesn't blow itself up), the next 50 years of your life are before you. And, as you come onto the stage as young adults,

the world is being destroyed! So, your mission is not to have the world destroyed! Your mission is to have a world to live in—so you can live your life, for the next 50 years or so, in that world.

The Baby-Boomer generation experienced really deep conditioning, through crises and other things, of this war with the Soviet Union. The disappearance of the Soviet Union took away the purpose for existence of the Baby-Boomer. And then, you have the Tweener, the fellows who are now in their 30s, who are not Baby-Boomers, and they have no values whatsoever! They tend to be the worst, most opportunistic sophists you can imagine. The Baby-Boomer generation generally tends, apart from extreme cases, to have an echo of what their parents' generation understood in terms of culture. There are echoes of Classical culture, in the Baby-Boomer generation, even though they have, in a sense, given them up as fighting issues. But they still like to have them, like an old piece of furniture, they admired in the house, a piece of bric-a-brac, a painting; an occasional bit of music from the past, from the Classical past. These things they enjoy as objects of art, or mementos. They just have no passion, for the reality of these things. They admire the memory of their having existed.

The Tweeners have no such commitment. They are lost souls, as a generation, with no values whatsoever. They are the worst sophists you could imagine, in our time, in any part of culture.

But, the Baby-Boomers, as I said, are in the sense of dying, not intending to die tomorrow, but intending to find a comfort zone and a life-style, hoping that when they die, it will come as a surprise, and they won't feel any pain.

So, that's our problem. And therefore, your generation, combined with a few old geezers like me, is the essence of the combination of people, who are responsible for the future of the human race. Now, you have found, through your experience as a youth movement, you've found that you have, per person, much more potential influence in society, than the complement number of Baby-Boomers, or people who are not functioning as you're functioning. You have the moral high ground, of your position, your activity. You have the responsibility, of beginning to assume the responsibilities of leadership, to turn this planet back to a Classical tradition. Turn this planet to a point that we escape, the immediately onrushing danger of a new dark age.

And, we're not doing a bad job! You're not doing a bad job. There are not enough of you. You don't have the resources. There are all kinds of problems. You've got the problems of being raised in a Baby-Boomer age. And this stinking culture, that you've been dumped into.

But, whatever you are, whatever you are not, it's your generation that is going to carry this planet through the next quarter-century, and half-century: your generation. You are responsible. And the Old Geezer, while he's around, is going to help you do it.