

Berlin's Future As The Hub of Eurasia

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Dear Berliners,

Our city finds itself in the worst crisis since the end of the Second World War. Anyone who has observed the situation, especially since 1989, is astonished at the tempo with which economic devastation and social collapse have gripped us. For a country that claims to be civilized, the high unemployment figures; a state-mandated budget-cutting policy (better called austerity policy), which hits the lower 80% of income brackets and leaves the top 5% undisturbed; decrepit infrastructure; a state of emergency in health care, as well as drug traffic, throughout the city, and the schools and universities, is an absolutely dreadful situation—and a sure sign that this city and Germany as a whole, if they want to survive, must carry out an urgent and comprehensive change of direction. The established parties, from the PDS [the ex-communist Party of Democratic Socialism] to the CDU [Christian Democratic Union], are not inclined toward such “reforms.” Problems are just ignored and become worse. As for the left-wing and right-wing protest parties, they belong more in a Chamber of Horrors than in politics. Truly everybody knows, that under the conditions in which politics has been conducted up to now, there is no solution in sight. But we cannot wait until our self-infatuated politicians change their bad habits; the time has come that the voters themselves must change their own habits and realize that it is their own fate that is at stake, and that it is they who must change their ways of thinking, if they and their country want to be freed of this crisis.

The Crisis Since 1989

I would like to establish that the above-mentioned symptoms of crisis are by no means the result of natural developments, but rather the consequence of a deliberate demolition of the foundations of society. Since the Wall which divided Germany was no longer allowed to stand by the people in 1989, great ranting and raving could be heard from the governments of France and Great Britain, reminding one of Rumpelstiltskin from the Grimms' fairy tale. The notoriously



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Daniel Buchmann campaigns for mayor of Berlin. The sign reads, “Globalization is the new fascism.”

Germany-hating Margaret Thatcher and François Mitterrand got together with the international financial oligarchy to turn the historic moment into a social and economic disaster, and to prevent Germany from regaining its political-economic sovereignty.

To understand this, one has to look at why, on Nov. 30, 1989 the head of Deutsche Bank and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's most important advisor, Alfred Herrhausen, was murdered. Herrhausen had planned a development bank for the national economies of the Comecon countries, particularly Poland, on the model of the German Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau [Reconstruction Finance Agency]. As in Lyndon LaRouche's program for the [Paris-Berlin-Vienna] “Productive Triangle,” he wanted to maintain and modernize the productive forces of Eastern Europe, rather than turning them over to the free market. In this way, the eastern contacts of the G.D.R.'s [East Germany's] enterprises could help set into motion an all-European economic miracle, with a key role for Germany.

Less than a week after Herrhausen's assassination, the French President made the blackmail demand that Germany must agree to give up its national currency, before France would vote in favor of German unity. This opened the way to the monstrous Maastricht Treaty, which dictated the introduction of the euro as a common currency for Europe. All the credit mechanisms were forbidden to Germany and the other members of the European Monetary Union, which today we so urgently need to make investments that would create new

jobs. It is high time to revoke the Maas-tricht Treaty and to reintroduce national currencies, with national productive credit-creation.

The Way Out: The Eurasian Land-Bridge

In 1991, Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche announced the project of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. Its goal was the construction of Eurasian transport and development corridors, to bind together the population centers of East Asia with the raw materials-rich areas of Central and North Asia, and the industrial and technological capacities of Europe. From 1914 to 1989, it was politically impossible to join Europe and Asia together. Now finally an opportunity had opened up, to build upon the development of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, the pre-World-War-I Berlin-Baghdad Orient Express, and the thousand-year-old Silk Road.

Countless meetings were held [by the LaRouche movement] with politicians, academics, and businessmen. Studies were prepared and circulated in many languages. In 1996, a conference finally took place in Beijing on the Eurasian Land-Bridge, in which Helga Zepp-LaRouche participated. From this point on, the Eurasian Land-Bridge was the official policy of numerous Asian countries.

The Eurasian Perspective for Berlin

We have the arrogant and aggressive policies of the out-of-control Cheney-Bush Administration in the U.S.A. to thank, for the fact that the Asian nations have deepened their own cooperation to an extent that astonishes every European observer. In 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was founded, with the participation of Russia, China, and four Central Asian nations. In June 2006, the heads of state and government of the SCO nations met in Shanghai, along with those of India, Iran, and Pakistan, in a circumstance in which the bankruptcy of the international financial and monetary system has more and more come to the center of attention.

For this reason, the American economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche is very aptly perceived as the voice of the true America and the prophet of a new, just world economic order. LaRouche has long been demanding the ouster of the Cheney-Bush regime and the reorganization of the bankrupt world monetary and financial system.

LaRouche's proposal for construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge across Russia and China, to India and Iran as



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The BüSo, joined by international members of the LaRouche Youth Movement, campaigning in Berlin. They are renowned throughout the city for singing Classical motets and canons. The banner reads, "Reindustrialization of Berlin—One Million New Jobs—Vote BüSo."

well as the Arab world, has long been known and respected. The understanding is maturing, that the long-term survival of all Asian nations can only be achieved by means of the Land-Bridge, and that this region has the greatest latent growth potential for the 21st Century.

Worldwide, there are hundreds of cities with millions of inhabitants, many in Asia, which have hardly any modern infrastructure whatsoever, which are smothered by garbage and sewage, which have no adequate housing for most of their residents, and where most people are able to consume food of only the most substandard quality. The great task of mankind will be to bring civilization and human dignity to these underdeveloped regions.

This will not be possible with the technologies of the 20th Century, such as oil-based fuels. The technologies of the future include hydrogen-based fuels and magnetic levitation, which could be introduced very quickly, as soon as the political will exists.

Even though our politicians are not aware of the full scope of these developments, they still do understand that Germany's ties to Russia and China must come to have particular significance. Germany is the only country which all three main corridors of the Land-Bridge traverse. Thus Germany is destined to be the hub of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. Berlin, in turn, is the hub of Germany. Here, then, is the starting-point from which to initiate a comprehensive reindustrialization of Berlin and the region—not as a goal in and of itself, but as a springboard to Eurasia.

Contrary to the stupid drivél of the typical '68er, machines

do not destroy jobs; worldwide and also here, there is a massive deficit in the production of industrial goods. In Germany's communities alone, there is an investment deficit in basic communal infrastructure of over 600 billion euros. Neither in roads nor in railways or bridges, are the necessary investments being made. Water supplies, electricity, schools, etc., are all in a miserable state of disrepair. Every year, due to mass unemployment and the lack of investment, we lose hundreds of billions in potential value-creation. In other countries, it often looks much, much worse.

To eliminate this deficit will require a great deal of human and machine labor. Berlin is one of the regions which would be capable of producing the necessary technologies, which humanity needs in the 21st Century in order to move ahead.

The Program for Berlin

The key to the reindustrialization of Berlin lies in its role as the turnstile and technology-producing center for the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The spark for a real upswing can be the construction of an intercontinental freight and passenger airport, which could be done at Sperenberg or Jüterbog. This airport would be linked to the center of Berlin by the Transrapid maglev, as has already been done before us in Shanghai.

In order to be successful, these projects, contrary to current regulations, should not be put out for bidding on a European-wide basis, but rather must be given to existing and yet-to-be created firms in Germany, and especially in the Berlin-Brandenburg region itself. In this way, the Berlin-Brandenburg region will be able to develop its productive forces and technology, which later will become the export powerhouse for Eurasia.

It should be noted that, in the time available, the Berlin-Brandenburg region does not have at its disposal the firms and capacities necessary to build up the Schönefeld Airport itself. The airport as it was originally constructed would only allow a displacement of jobs from Tempelhof and Tegel to Schönefeld. Neither the airport company nor the construction enterprises would create a single *new* productive job.

Revolutionary infrastructure technologies can be developed and produced in Berlin, tested and improved there, in order to offer these technologies to the world. Among these are the development of drive mechanisms and hydrogen fuel for autos; CargoCap (underground distribution of goods from central depots); as well as Transrapid and magnetic levitation techniques that are now only in the initial phases; a new system for supersonic flight, which today is still too expensive; space travel, etc.

Around these new industries, a supplier-industry will be built up, which will receive massive orders for machine tools. These too will point the way to brand new technologies: for example, the possibility of using lasers for work that is much more precise than previously used modalities. These develop-

ments will affect other areas such as medical technologies, the exploration and manufacture of new basic materials, etc.

Berlin's reindustrialization is the key to the creation of the national economic capacity that is necessary for all the functions of a modern society: to maintain and improve education, health, social services, culture, and basic infrastructure.

It is not possible to solve the budget crisis and unemployment by budget cuts and the laws of the free market. Debt reduction can only function through investment; jobs are only created through investment in new means of putting people to work. The state has the right and the duty to do this.

Therefore the old saws about the service or information economy, which have led to a situation in which Germany doesn't produce anything anymore, must be rejected.

A New Paradigm Is Needed

If you belong to the generation which, after all these years of political corruption and senseless television twaddle, has lost the belief in the possibility of such projects or of any kind of positive change, then I can assure you, that behind our ideas there is a movement of people between 18 and 25 years of age, who are too young to have heads of concrete, and too old to be playing pranks. In this society, which has lost the belief in the next generation, which lives in the here and now for the direct gratification of the senses, the only hope is that the youths and young adults, won't adapt to the collapse of the doomed fads of the '68ers, but will instead seek better ideals, from thinkers who have really brought mankind to a higher level.

Therefore, a whole array of young candidates are also campaigning with me on the BüSo slate for the Berlin House of Deputies and the borough councils. Our belief in the future does not derive from romantic sentimentality, but rather from the fact that we are dedicating our lives, not just to short-term changes, but also to achieve a durable renaissance of Classical culture and science.

We will only be able to reorganize the world financial system and create new jobs, when we go beyond the contemplation of our own navels. A humanist renaissance in politics, economics, culture, *and* science is the minimum that is necessary, for human civilization as a whole to free itself from the current "childhood diseases" of mankind, and to begin to take steps forward.

The '68er generation, having dominated the parties and politics for some time with their neo-liberal and green pipe-dreams, has fundamentally disqualified itself in the eyes of all those whose existence depends upon standing with both feet in the real world. It is time that people who know better, change their voting habits and give fresh ideas and fresh minds the chance to take their own future in hand.

Yours,
Daniel Buchmann