

Infrastructure Is the Solution To the Economic Collapse

We are living through the worst economic-financial and cultural crisis in the history of humanity. This reality is revealed in the disaster in Tabasco, Chiapas, and Oaxaca: food shortages, lack of drinking water and medicines, latent outbreaks of epidemics, entire cities under water. One could easily compare the results of the policies of neo-liberalism, or free trade, in Mexico with the scene of Tabasco today, just as was seen in the United States after Hurricane Katrina.

The governments of both countries have proven incompetent to tackle weather phenomena like these, because of a lack of infrastructure and other relevant programs. On Aug. 31, 2005, Democratic Party economist Lyndon H. LaRouche outlined the measures that needed to be taken immediately, to address what the Bush, Jr. government could not. He warned that the necessary perspective was the development of productive sectors of the economy and infrastructure.

Mexican LYM Addresses Flood Catastrophe

We publish above the text of the leaflet written and being widely circulated by the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Mexico, addressing the ongoing flooding disaster in the poverty-stricken states of Tabasco and Chiapas, in southern Mexico. It is currently estimated that 1 million of Tabasco's 2 million inhabitants have been affected by the flooding, and there are 70,000 victims in neighboring Chiapas. Close to 90% of Tabasco, and its capital city of Villahermosa, is under water.

The situation in Villahermosa is so dire that the state Government Secretary Humberto Mayans has warned of a "very high risk" of social crisis and riots like those that occurred after the 1999 floods. Today there are 100,000 people wandering around, who have lost everything. The threat of the outbreak of disease is great, as there is no potable water or sanitation services.

Mexico's pathetic free-marketeer President Felipe Calderón has had the audacity to say that "climate change" is the cause of the flooding disaster. Tabasco's Governor, Andrés Granier, quickly disabused him of that lie, charging that the tragedy is the result of years of disinvestment in infrastructure. Governor Granier pointed out that, had projects scheduled for completion last May been finished, "there would have been damage, yes, but not the catastro-

phe we are now suffering." This would require, minimally, an investment of 6 billion pesos, the Governor said, yet the federal budget has allocated only a pathetic 387 million.

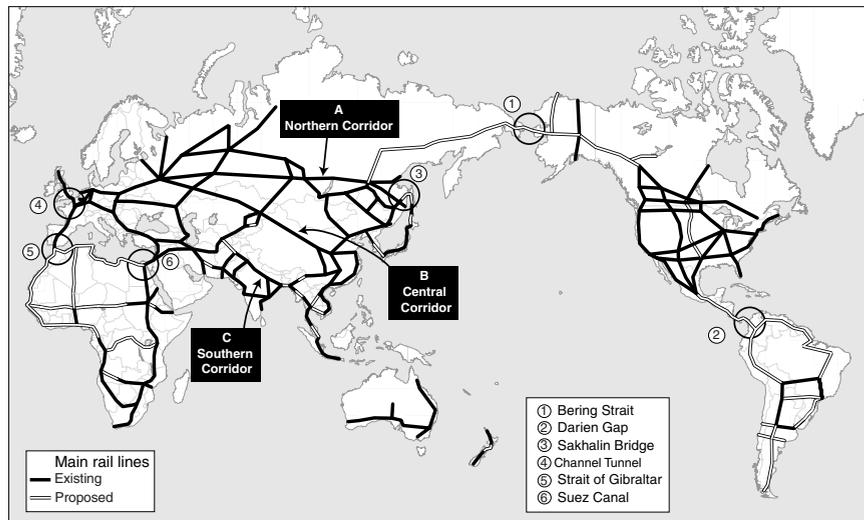
Mexican engineer Manuel Frías, an expert in water-management and flood control, underscored the criminality of Calderón's position even more dramatically. Frías told *EIR* that at the time of the 1999 floods, he proposed the specific infrastructure projects that were required, and warned that were they not built, any future flooding would be "a catastrophe." The current rainfall in the region is no worse than in 1999, he reported. It is the *infrastructure deficit* alone that is responsible for the current disaster. Only a global, integrated, and properly financed program can solve the problem, Frías said.

Adding its voice, Mexico's College of Civil Engineers published a study Nov. 7, stating that more than 20 billion pesos is required for investment in crucial water infrastructure projects in both Tabasco and Chiapas, with special emphasis on the "integral management" of the Grijalva and Usumacinta river basins, as well as the diversion of both rivers. In the last 50 years, only four dams have been built on the Grijalva River, while no flood-control projects exist on the Usumacinta River. The overflow of 16 rivers in Chiapas led to flooding of 30 municipalities, and mudslides that threaten entire towns.

The LYM leaflet is dramatically illustrated with matching photos of the flooding in post-Katrina New Orleans, and of flooded Tabasco today, as well as maps of the integrated water management projects for Mexico—the PLHINO and the PLHIGÓN—and the World Land-Bridge

—Cynthia Rush

Proposed World Land-Bridge

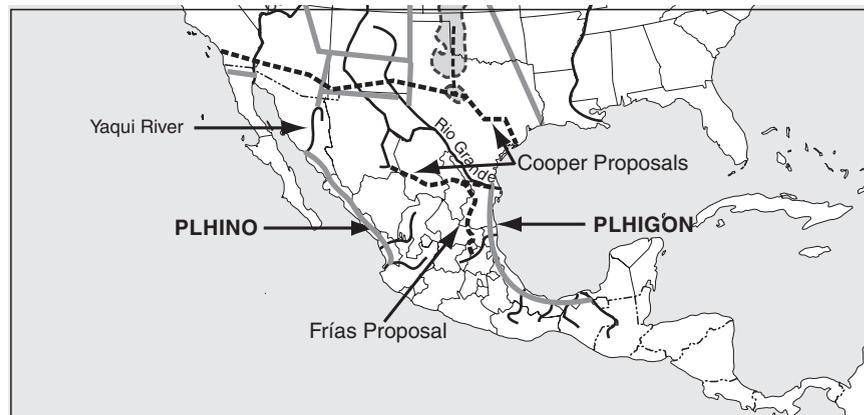


The Hydraulic Plan of the Northwest (PLHINO), and the Hydraulic Plan of the Northeast Gulf (PLHIGÓN) are carefully planned projects, consisting of a series of dams and canals through which large quantities of water from southern Mexico's largest rivers could be transported to the arid, but very fertile coastal regions of the northeast and northwest. In this way, millions of hectares could be irrigated.

The PLHIGÓN could capture a sizable portion of the runoff from southeastern rivers—including the Grijalva and the Usumacinta, which just produced devastating floods in Tabasco—from the region of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and transfer it north to the Rio Grande on the U.S.-Mexican border, via a 1,400-km canal along the entire coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Six of the 22 dams needed for this project are already built.

On Mexico's west coast, the PLHINO would transport water to the arid northwest from the state of Nayarit, through Sinaloa, and on to Sonora, via a series of dams and a 1,100 km-canal right on the coast. While neither of these projects would be able to transport water to the central part of the Great American Desert, which is in the northern highlands between Mexico's two main mountain ranges, American engineer Hal Cooper and Mexican engineer Manuel Frías have proposed additional dams, canals, pumping stations, and tunnels to do just that.

Proposed Water Projects for Mexico



Sources: Parsons Company, *North American Water and Power Alliance Conceptual Study*, Dec. 7, 1964; Hal Cooper; Manuel Frías Alcaraz; *EIR*.

The stupid war policy promoted by Bush and his Vice President Dick Cheney has left all of these important sectors of the U.S. economy unattended. The four states most affected by Hurricane Katrina were devastated economically before Katrina hit, just as the entire Mexican Republic has been over the past 25 years. Not only were planned infrastructure projects halted, but existing projects were dismantled, primarily in the areas of water, transportation, and energy.

Is All This Caused by Global Warming?

“Yes, I can assure the Tabasco people that the origin and cause of this catastrophe is the enormous climate change which, whether you recognize it or not, has produced the largest precipitation ever registered in our history.”

With this statement, President Calderón is trying to cover up the real cause of the Tabasco catastrophe: the collapse

of infrastructure and physical economy. It is well known that the international financial oligarchy is using media propaganda to stop the development of nations; its free trade policies have found their best ally in the so-called green policy that worships Mother Earth—Gaia. This is a cult that has gained many followers among political groups of the left, center, and right, where the great lie is repeated over and over again. And so the myth of global warming caused by man is the flat-earth myth of the 21st Century. It is the kernel of a new fascism with a green face, an anti-human and genocidal viewpoint.¹

1. NASA and other astrophysical research centers in Russia report that Mars has warmed .65 degrees C between 1970 and 1990. Should we be talking about Universal Warming instead of Global Warming? Don't believe it. There are already thousands of scientists who reject the theory of climate change caused by man as simply unscientific. Even the British Channel 4 television has aired a documentary video that can be found on the pages of YouTube under the title, “The Great Fraud of Global Warming.” For more information, go to: www.wlym.com/%7Espanish/calentamiento_global/calentamiento_global.htm.



Entire towns are underwater in Tabasco and Chiapas states in southern Mexico. These photos were taken by a member of a PEMEX rescue crew.



the United States itself, and above all, our own country, with unthinkable disaster.²

PLHIGÓN and PLHINO

In 1983, a select group of Mexican engineers schooled in the tradition of the Fusion Energy Foundation (an institution founded around the concepts of physical economy and scientific Renaissance inspired by Lyndon LaRouche), created a development program for Mexico which included a water management plan that we must revive today. This includes the Hydraulic Plan of the Northeast Gulf (PLHIGÓN), to which we will refer only in part. The Grijalva-Usumacinta river system is among the seven most important in the world, based on the volume of water—110.9 million cubic meters—dumped into the sea, representing 30% of Mexico’s surface drainage. This is enough water to double our agricultural and hydroelectric potential.

Construction Is the Solution

We need projects, many projects, which, under a new form of economic cooperation for peace, will guarantee the population’s welfare. Russia is now proposing the construction of a high-speed railroad tunnel under the Bering Strait—a proposal currently under broad discussion in high-level political circles in China, India, and the United States. Similarly, in South America, the member countries of the Bank of the South enthusiastically see the potential to create industrial development corridors by means of high-speed rail, and through the creation of the necessary credit mechanisms. Once again, the State must regulate the economy. Only in this way can the projects be developed that are necessary for the sustained growth of a nation.

No aid fund is going to help. The states must reintegrate themselves, through development corridors. There can be no pretext for stopping the development of the nation, and we must not accept “no” for an answer.

We must therefore change our way of thinking with regard to the economy, and we must fight for a new international economic order that will allow us the necessary flow of credit to build many projects like the PLHINO and PLHIGÓN, which have become part of the World Land-Bridge—proposals that the LaRouche movement is carrying to every part of the world. Join this effort and get in touch with us. Lyndon H. LaRouche is right, and it is time to listen to him.

2. www.wlym.com/%7Espanish/Prometeo/Prometeo_v2n14_carta.pdf, www.ljcentral.net/wms/eir/misc/2007/Jose_Lopez_Portillo/UNO_speech_15min_300kbpsSpanish.wmv

And What Can Be Done?

What is needed is the reestablishment of productive powers and the building a series of infrastructure projects that can integrate our country once again, and let us join with other sovereign nations in the creation of mechanisms for their financing. It must be carried out by the State, since no private initiative is capable, nor will be, of resolving problems of this magnitude.

The Role of the Nation-State Is The General Welfare

José López Portillo was the last President committed to this idea, and he did everything in his power to make this an industrialized country, establishing the foundations for a Mexico on the road to becoming a self-sufficient industrial power. How did he hope to achieve this?

Let’s review a little: Dams, highways, hydroelectric plants, schools, hospitals, chemical plants, petrochemical plants, steel mills, iron works, transportation, agriculture, ranching, education, and food. Mexico was on the path to development, including the application of nuclear technology. These are just some of the sectors in which there was such an impressive increase that it led to self-sufficiency, something which with today’s economic policy, appears to be just a dream or pure rhetoric.

In fact, it wasn’t until the end of the López Portillo Presidency, when Miguél de la Madrid came in, that Mexico was immediately led into the macabre game of financial speculation, free trade, and globalization. A game so macabre that it has annihilated entire nations and now threatens