

'Economist' Editor Slams Westphalia; Lauds Lisbon

Edward Lucas, editor for Russian and Eastern European affairs for the Economist magazine, the official publication of the British Empire, has written a book, The New Cold War: Putin's Russia and the Threat to the West (Hampshire, England: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). During a book signing, prior to a lecture he was to deliver at the Watson Institute at Brown University in Providence, R.I., two LaRouche PAC (LPAC) organizers, Alexandra Peribikovsky and Matthew Ogden, drew him into a pointed dialogue, during which he exposed his lust for the Lisbon Treaty process, which aims to eliminate the sovereignty of nation-states, and bring to an end the era of Westphalia.

A paraphrase of the exchange follows, with direct quotations indicated:

LPAC: What do you think of the Kennebunkport process, launched at the meeting of Putin with Bush?

Lucas: Bush said he looked into Putin's eyes and saw his soul; I would have seen the letters KGB.

LPAC: Many people have compared Putin's Kennebunkport proposal to Reagan's SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative].

Lucas: I think the concept of strategic defense is highly overrated.

LPAC: While Putin was involved in the meetings

at Kennebunkport, many leading people in Moscow were repeatedly discussing the legacy of Franklin Roosevelt.

Lucas: Well! I think Putin has his own reasons for bringing up FDR!

LPAC: Both the Kennebunkport proposal and the SDI are reminiscent of Roosevelt's war-time Russian-American alliance. In fact, the Russian-American partnership goes all the way back to the Civil War and even the American Revolution. And, ironically, America was always allied with the Russians, against the British!

Lucas: World politics were different back then.

LPAC: In the context of the crash of the entire world financial system, what do you think about the United States entering into an alliance with Russia and China, to stabilize the dollar, as Roosevelt did with the Bretton Woods conference?

Lucas: Why should Russia be party to that sort of conference? Economically, Russia is now a third-rate power. They have no economic power. They're at the level of a Holland, or a Belgium. Why should the Dutch or the Belgians have a seat at the table discussing a new world system?

LPAC: Brussels wants to dictate the new world system, actually! The Lisbon Treaty would give the president of a United Europe a seat in Belgium.

Lucas: [direct quote] "I am a strong advocate of the Lisbon Treaty. I support it 100%! We should end all of this discussion and debate about an EU Constitution, and just do it! Just make it happen!"

LPAC: So you advocate the elimination of sovereignty for the nations of Europe?

Lucas: "The nations of Europe don't need sovereignty! They no longer need to be separate states; Europe needs to create its own internal market..."

LPAC: What you're advocating would mean the end of the Westphalian System.

Lucas: "I HATE THE WESTPHALIAN SYSTEM! The world needs to move beyond the age of Westphalia!"

LPAC: You don't believe that government should exist to promote the general welfare of its people?

Lucas: "I believe in international security organizations, like NATO ... international governing institutions."

LPAC: You know, here in the United States of America, we Americans value highly the idea of national sovereignty.

Lucas: I don't know much about the American system of politics, but I don't believe in sovereignty. By the way, are you two part of some specific political party or group? I am beginning to notice a certain consistency in your questions....

LPAC: Let us ask you one last question. Would you support the construction of a tunnel across the Bering Strait, to connect Russia and the United States, as proposed by Lyndon LaRouche?

Lucas: LaRouche! I wouldn't support anything that that crackpot LaRouche proposed!

LPAC: He was the intellectual author of the SDI, you know....

Lucas: Members of your group intervened in an event that I held in Washington recently! You practically destroyed my event!