

Editorial

The time is now

In 1982, following the defeat of Argentina in the Malvinas War, Lyndon LaRouche proposed Operation Juárez to the political leaders of Ibero-America. He urged that the nations of Ibero-America join together to oppose the usurious bankers' dictatorship being imposed upon them, in particular, by Great Britain and the United States. Key in the proposal were the declaration of a debt moratorium and economic integration of those nations around a program for infrastructural and industrial development. Such a bloc would have been completely opposite in character to the colonialist's paradise of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Operation Juárez was not adopted. In 1986, LaRouche warned that we were entering a new era of irregular warfare which would take on the character of a Thirty Years' War, like that which occurred in central Europe from 1618 to 1648. LaRouche warned then that failure to get rid of the monetarist policies associated at the time with Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, and of course the International Monetary Fund, would lead to an economic collapse which would create the inevitable conditions in which such generalized warfare would be unleashed.

In 1989, LaRouche proposed that the German government of Helmut Kohl take the lead in organizing a triangular development program centered upon the industrial regions of Germany and France, from which would flow investment into eastern Europe for major infrastructural and industrial development. This policy was bitterly opposed by the British and U.S. governments, and a propaganda campaign was unleashed by them, to smear reunified Germany as a "Fourth Reich."

Just as the Ibero-American political leadership failed in 1982 to adopt the course of action proposed by LaRouche, so, too, European politicians lacked the courage to move in the direction indicated by him, even in face of the enormous opportunity offered by the collapse of Soviet tyranny.

The present monetary collapse, which is taking down every currency but the deutschemark and the yen, and is signaling a devastating new stage of deepening

crisis of the world's physical economy, offers yet another window of opportunity for such a move. Anglo-American intentions to control the world have been decisively undercut.

What we are seeing now worldwide is not merely a collapse or a crisis, but a political process of disintegration. The British government of John Major is on the way out, and in the United States it is clear that the voters really want "none of the above," neither Bush nor Clinton. New information that Henry Kissinger deliberately deserted American prisoners of war in Indochina can only fuel the sense of horror of the American people saddled with a government process gone amok over the past two and a half decades.

Bad as the situation is, it offers an opportunity, because the forces of evil are in a weakened condition. Now is the time for patriotic people around the world to rally forces in their various nations to fight for an alternative to a devastating New Dark Age. Crucial in this are the kinds of economic initiatives posed by LaRouche and his associates over decades.

Famine, war, the destruction of moral values, these are the concomitants of a descent into Hell. Already we see a pattern of wars spreading in the Balkans, in Transcaucasia, in the Middle East, in Central Asia, and wars and civil strife in other parts of the planet. Government leaders are talking about sealing their borders to hordes of starving refugees fleeing from war-torn areas, while the same leaders impose ruthless austerity upon their own people.

Now we have perhaps the last time to act before we risk the loss of humanity over generations—perhaps even a loss of the potential for civilized life as we now know it. Now is a period in which greatness must emerge, in which we must create the conditions for a new Renaissance, however improbable our individual chance to succeed may seem. One lesson of history, of which we are especially reminded on this anniversary of Oct. 12, 1492, is that all great movements have emerged in no less improbable a form, under conditions which, to those then living, seemed equally ominous.