

## LaRouche on the underpopulation crisis

The following remarks were made by physical economist Lyndon LaRouche in the course of a June 15, 1991 interview conducted with Dominican Republic television journalist Dr. Julio Hazim at the Rochester Federal Medical Center where LaRouche is being held as a political prisoner.

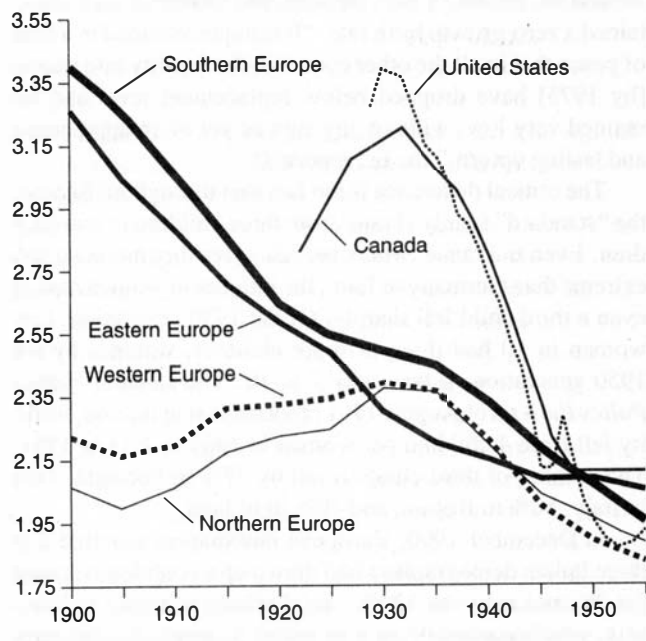
If you're going to have a high-quality population, you have to have a population which has a life expectancy, modally, up to 85-90 years of age, if you want a quality population. If you want a highly educated population, that means you have a school-leaving age of about 25 years of age. Now, in order to have a productive society, you must have a highly educated population. That means up to 25 years of age education. Now, how many years of adult life [are required] to pay for raising one child to 25 years of age with full education? That means you require an effective modal life expectancy, working life expectancy, of up to 60, or 65, or 70 years of age. If I produce a population which is generally healthy, up to

60-70 years, from the standpoint of work, then I have a population which will live to 85 or 90 years. . . .

If I reduce the birth rate, then I have a population that is demographically aged, where 50% or more of the population will become senior citizens. Now, to reduce the population, I have to go around and kill the senior citizens. This is what is happening now. People will say, "Right to Die": Cut down hospital services, cut down health insurance. You're getting to the point where if you walk out of a factory on your last day of employment at the age of 65, they shoot you in order to maintain population control.

There's a certain structure of the family in terms of children per married couple, which maintains a balance for progress. If you have fewer children, then you have a demographically aged population. If you try to lower the life expectancy below the working age of retirement, at 65 for most of the population, then you have a poorer-quality population, then you lower the population potential. What you do is, then, you create overpopulation. You create a population which you cannot maintain; and you say, "Maintain a smaller population and all will be well"; but the things that you would have to do to reduce the population will create the problem you say you're trying to avoid.

FIGURE 6  
**Fertility trends in Europe and North America**  
(births per woman, by year of woman's birth)



Source: Louis Roussel, "Fertility and Family," report to European Population Conference, Geneva (Switzerland), March 23-26, 1993.

the world. The secret paper said that "Europe can no longer exist without the dynamism of its youth, necessary for the innovative and creative spirit," but also raises the specter of an "inevitable" tide of immigration from North Africa and the Mediterranean basin if Europe does not replenish its labor force. The Italian paper accuses previous EC meetings of only coming to "feeble" conclusions, and says the time has come for action, an "operational phase producing directives (mandatory Eurolaws)." The paper indicates that fiscal reform favoring marriage should be made. The British government opposed such measures, and has already clashed with Brussels on calls for Europe-wide standards for pregnancy leave and pay for working mothers.

Nothing happened. As of January 1992, the Italian National Research Center reported that Italy's birth rate had fallen to the lowest in the world. Italian women average 1.27 children, down from 1.29 in 1990. This is over 30% below zero growth. The speed of the plunge was unprecedented. By August 1991, fertility rates in Spain and Italy had fallen to only 1.3 and 1.29 per woman. Just the year before, Italy was reporting a birth rate of 1.34, and Spain, of 1.38. Within only three years, if the situation continues, Italy will have more citizens over 60 than under 20. By the year 2021, according to projections, Italy's population, which is now 54 million, will have shrunk by 3.5 million people.

The birth collapse continued, as the 1990 demographic statistics from the European Community proved. Overall fertility for the 12 EC nations—Spain and Portugal had since