

Editorial

The course of human events

July 4, 1776 was a dark and fearful period. A small group of people, clustered in 13 separate colonies, determined to defeat the seemingly awesome power of the British Empire. The leaders of this struggle, weighed down by the task which they had assumed, were given a last offer by the British: Renounce your "treason," and we will give you amnesty; continue to fight for what you conceive to be your rights, and we shall crush you.

As we all know, the answer of these brave men, the 55 signers of the Declaration of Independence, was a stirring refusal, a declaration of the true rights of all men and women then and for all time to unite in defense of God's law. Thus they declared their right to renounce allegiance to the British Crown, and all political connection with the state of Great Britain.

The War of Independence was won, and the British Empire ultimately, as such, was dissolved; yet today, the British are attempting—albeit in an altered form—to reimpose the colonial system upon the world. That is the truth of their opposition to the basic demands of the Bosnian nation to be allowed to arm itself for the defense of its people, against extermination by a brutal enemy.

Sadly, this period in human history has not seen anywhere people of the stature of Benjamin Franklin, the Adams brothers, George Washington, and the rest, in control of the destiny of their nation. It is true that among political leaders—President Clinton, now Chancellor Kohl, President Demirel—there have been protests against the inhumanity of the appeasement of Serbia; but nowhere are there leaders in power who have shown their willingness to stand as beacons to the world in the cause of right.

Today we see in every portion of the globe governments that are falling apart. Compare John Major with the equally abominable Margaret Thatcher, or look at the situation in Italy, the fall of the Japanese government on the eve of the Tokyo summit, the weakness of the Clinton administration. The very institution of the nation-state, so powerfully defended by the victorious

American Revolution, is now under mortal threat.

This is occurring not only under force of arms as in the Balkans, or in Somalia, but because of the chaotic impact of the deepening economic collapse. This is occurring because of the stupid acceptance of the British ideology of the so-called free market. Speculators, the freebooters and feudal lords of today, are given free rein to systematically destroy the means of support of whole populations, in the name of the sanctity of profit-making.

The American Revolution was fought against this kind of economic warfare, against Britain's attempt to use its economic weight to destroy the colonies. At that time, the British sought to prohibit manufacture and to impose arbitrary taxes; today, the International Monetary Fund serves the same function as George III did then. Then it was taxation without representation; today it is the forced repayment of artificially inflated debt, at the expense of shutting down basic industries throughout the world.

We here today—not only Americans, but the Chinese students in Tiananmen Square who held up an image of the Goddess of Democracy to represent to the world who they were; not only Americans, but the brave fighters in Bosnia; not only Americans, but all human beings present and future—owe a debt to those 55 men who joined together on July 4, 1776 to issue their Declaration on behalf of natural law.

Let us take this Fourth of July as a moment to reflect on that document, to pledge ourselves to the great tasks at hand. Let us do so with courage, with hope, and faith. Let us assume the mantle which they left us with as much calm determination as they did then.

Let us also joyously honor the spirit of Lyndon H. LaRouche, who, imprisoned by the spiritual descendants of George III, is unflinching in his fight against tyranny, and who with his brave comrades imprisoned and facing prison in the Commonwealth of Virginia, represent the truest sons and daughters of those 55 signers of the Declaration of Independence.