
Interview: Helga Zepp LaRouche

‘I am running for office, because no one else is telling the truth!’

Mrs. LaRouche is the chairman of the the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity of Germany (BüSo), and is running for the office of Federal chancellor in the elections scheduled for September 1998. She was interviewed by the German weekly Neue Solidarität, the newspaper of the LaRouche movement in Germany. The interview was translated from German.

Q: Mrs. Zepp LaRouche, at the last party congress of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity, you announced your candidacy for the chancellorship. What are your reasons? Aren't there enough chancellor candidates already?

Zepp LaRouche: The problem is, that none of those in the running—neither Chancellor Helmut Kohl nor Kohl's eventual successor from the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union], nor [Social Democratic Party Lower Saxony state Gov. Gerhard] Schröder nor [Social Democratic Party head Oskar] Lafontaine—are telling citizens the truth; for example, that we face a total collapse of the world financial system, and not just a “correction” on the stock exchanges. Such a collapse would go far beyond the crash of 1929, and would bring incalculable dangers. I am running for office, because I am the only one who is telling the truth in this situation.

Q: These days, we read about falling stock markets, monetary crises, and other harbingers of a big financial crash, which you just spoke of. How do you assess the situation?

Zepp LaRouche: The world financial system has puffed up, during the last two or three decades, into a gigantic speculative bubble. More than 99% of daily financial transactions consist of speculative activities, and only a half-percent has anything to do with the exchange of real goods. The collapse of the financial system could take place as a result of a multitude of factors: The fully bankrupt Japanese banking system could provide the impulse, or the catastrophic situation on the “emerging markets” of Southeast Asia, or a new “Mexico crisis,” that is, a payments crisis with collapse of the currency, in many of the countries of eastern Europe; also a great miscalculation in speculation with derivatives could bring about a landslide. The financial system is in a highly labile situation, such that the slightest psychological or political cause could bring the whole house of cards tumbling down.

Various financial experts expect that between now and October, a “correction” of up to 40% will occur on the stock markets. But once the avalanche starts, there is no stopping it. If governments do not act decisively then, the complete disintegration of the world financial system threatens. Within two or three days, the whole system could literally dissolve.

In this case, trade would come to a halt. Supplies of food and other vital goods would be endangered: In the Federal Republic of Germany, there would only be stocks of food enough to last for maybe five days. This would have dramatic consequences all around the world. The poorest and the weakest, the old and sick, would be the first victims. The strategic consequences of such an uncontrolled collapse could hardly be exaggerated, in their dangerousness.

Q: As an alternative to such an uncontrolled collapse of the system, you are calling for a New Bretton Woods Conference of the most important governments. Can you explain, since most people have no idea, what the old Bretton Woods Conference of 1944 actually agreed upon?

Zepp LaRouche: That is precisely the problem, that people today know too little about history to draw the necessary lessons from it. We have described this urgently needed new international conference for reorganizing the world financial system, for pedagogical reasons, as a “New Bretton Woods Conference.” This gives people the idea, that monetary systems are made by governments. The first Bretton Woods Conference was convened by governments, and they joined together to create a monetary system that provided for relative economic stability for two decades; that is, it ensured a stable relationship among the various currencies. This made possible long-term investments in productive domains on the international plane.

What we want to do today, is to have an improved Bretton Woods system, that will create the conditions for a return to industrial development and economic justice among nations. That means we need not only a reorganization of the bankrupt old financial system, but also a new world monetary system, that will encourage productive investments. A further aspect, which must be dealt with by the New Bretton Woods Conference, is the reorganization of trade relations among nations, to which unrestrained free trade has caused enormous damage.



Helga Zepp LaRouche speaks at a conference of the Schiller Institute and International Caucus of Labor Committees, Aug. 31, 1997.

Q: Why do you want U.S. President Bill Clinton to convene this conference? Do you think that Europe should leave this to the Americans? What role should Europe play?

Zepp LaRouche: The problem is, that Europe, through its toleration of genocide in Bosnia, has demonstrated its total political impotence. Continental Europe's inability to recognize and to publicly denounce the geopolitical motives behind Great Britain's destructive role, has condemned European policy to be wrecked in the future as well. The Anglophile factions within each European country are, at the moment, blocking any effective European policy, and as long as there is no remedy for this, I do not expect any positive initiatives from Europe, that could lead the way out of the current crisis.

President Clinton is, on the other side, much better than most people think. He is a highly educated man, who is very much interested in history and has, in general, the merit that, as American President, the power of his office under the American Constitution would allow him to push through this reform of the world financial system, which is so urgently needed worldwide.

President Clinton must take on this task together with China and India (the most populous states in the world), with Europe and other nations, because unity is necessary. At the moment, the fate of mankind really hangs upon whether President Clinton will receive the international support, to carry out such a reorganization successfully.

Naturally, it of greatest interest to me, that Germany play an active role in this, and that our government finally enter

into the proposal that President Clinton made during this visit to Europe in 1994: namely, that a "special relationship" between America and Germany be built, in which Germany would have a special responsibility for the economic development of the East.

Chancellor Kohl's greatest political blunder, was that he declined President Clinton's 1994 offer. For there was, after Germany's reunification, the first real chance for Germany's sovereignty, in cooperation with America, to be used for a positive reshaping of the world. Kohl squandered that chance, and that makes him co-responsible for all the negative developments, particularly respecting economic affairs, that we have been complaining about since then. My candidacy also has the intent to unify all the forces in Germany, who want to go back to Clinton's offer.

Q: You have visited China twice, and we have heard and read a great deal about your proposal for a "New Silk Road" or "Eurasian Land-Bridge." This program would create many millions of productive jobs. What does the Eurasian Land-Bridge mean, concretely, for Germany?

Zepp LaRouche: The idea of economic integration of Eurasia is not new. It has existed since the end of the last century, when people began to build rail lines from Berlin to Baghdad, from Paris to Vladivostok. The idea there, was to tie Europe economically to Asia. The British geopoliticians perceived this as a vital threat to the British Empire, and reacted with a number of strategic manipulations: First, they drew France, at

the end of the 19th century, into the so-called Entente Cordiale against Germany; then, they also locked Russia into the Triple Entente, and up to the Balkan wars, the political chessboard was so arranged, that the First World War was the result.

Thus was the idea of the economic integration of Eurasia sabotaged by British geopolitics throughout the whole 20th century, first by World War I and the Versailles Treaty (which was designed to keep Germany down), and then by World War II, which was really only the continuation of the First World War. After the war, the Yalta treaty divided the continent into two blocs, preventing peaceful economic cooperation between East and West.

After the fall of the Wall in 1989, and especially since China picked up this idea again and forged ahead with great energy to build the Eurasian Land-Bridge, a whole number of other countries have undertaken such infrastructure development projects; for example, Iran, India, and also the D-8 (“Developing Eight”) group—eight developing countries, which have come together as a counterweight to the Group of Seven of the industrial states. Thus, in the world economy, there exist two realities: one is the oncoming collapse of the financial system, with which the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are associated, as well as the economic crisis that is leading to more and more unemployment, including in Germany. The second reality is the project of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, for which China, India, Iran, and other states are working.

With an official unemployment figure in Germany of 4-5 million, and, according to the Federal Labor Department, an actual deficit of 8.3 million jobs, it should be obvious which route we must take. I consider it to be a crime, that the banks are now throwing out the productive capacities we have here in Germany, which took us hundreds of years to build up; instead of investing productively, all the capital is being pumped into the speculative bubble. Our productive capacities (skilled jobs) and the technology that could be manufactured with them, will be urgently needed in the world. There is an enormous need for that in which Germany is most outstanding: its scientific and technological level, particularly in the machine-building sector.

The idea is, by the reorganization of the financial system, to make available new productive credits by means of national banks, to achieve full employment. There is no reason that we in Germany should not keep our existing productive jobs and, in the course of a new economic miracle, creating millions of new ones, if we engage ourselves in the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

Q: While today everybody is talking about “globalization” and “the end of the Industrial Age,” you are posing an alternative of a “new industrial society.” By that, you certainly don’t mean a media “industry” for the information society!

Zepp LaRouche: The reason why, in the last five years, we have lost a quarter of our medium-sized enterprises, is 30 years of a failed policy. The present crisis is no natural catas-

trophe, but the result of a wrong-headed policy, based on equally wrong premises, notably the dogma of the “free market economy.” The situation of the world proves that the “free market economy” has totally failed. We are now, worldwide, at the point that communism was at in the fall of 1989. The free market economy and globalization have been wrecked; the same goes for the utopia of the “post-industrial society,” according to which one is supposed to earn one’s money only by service-sector jobs. The information society reveals itself to be nothing more than a return to a feudal social structure, in which, according to the former editor of the London *Times*, Lord William Rees-Mogg, only 5% of the population will need higher education, while 95%—with or without access to the Internet and laptop computers—will be left to a kind of mental slavery and stupefaction.

Nobody can live by eating only what the media industry and the information society spew out. We must return to the principle of physical economy, to the question: What is necessary to nourish and to educate a society, a nation? The first requirements are material infrastructure (transport, energy, water, and so on) and social infrastructure (education and health care). The physical preconditions must be created, whereby not only our generation, but also the coming generations can live in dignity.

Q: Surely the trade unions should adopt this program, and put pressure on the government to finally create jobs.

Zepp LaRouche: The German trade unions should look at America, where John Sweeney, the new president of the AFL-CIO trade union federation, has breathed new life into the workers’ organizations: In the United States, the idea is being revived that productive, skilled jobs are the source of social well-being. And, as we have now seen in the successful Teamsters’ strike against UPS, the trade unionists are resisting the mentality of budget cuts and elimination of social services. In Germany, a similar discussion is very much necessary, and the trade unions must go on the offensive, if they do not want to be the cemetery caretaker for the collapse of German industry.

It has been proved, that the relocation of jobs to the so-called cheap-wage countries is good neither for those countries, nor the enterprises. Further studies have shown: The best guarantee for competitiveness is the maximization of the productivity of one’s own labor power. The way to achieve that is by urgently improving education, strongly emphasizing basic research, a decent living standard, possibilities for raising one’s skill level, etc.

Q: The BüSo is taking part in the municipal elections in Hamburg on Sept. 21. What do you expect from the elections, and do you see a relationship between these and the Federal elections in September 1998?

Zepp LaRouche: Hamburg could play an essential role as a port city, a “gateway to the world,” within the context of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. Just as container shipping goes

between China's ports and Rotterdam, so the port of Hamburg can become a nodal point for Eurasian development. And that is the only way that full productive employment can be achieved in Hamburg and the surrounding region. So, we also see this election in Hamburg as an opportunity to familiarize citizens with these ideas and programs.

We are, nevertheless, on the verge of a huge financial crash. The greatest danger is that citizens just sit and wait around until the cataclysm has already descended upon them. We want to reach the point where citizens confront the politicians in charge, right now, on what they are planning on doing to protect the population and the physical economy, at the point when the crash comes. Because when it comes, it's going to happen so quickly that there won't be any time left to consider what to do.

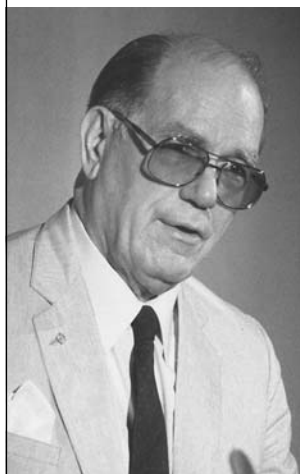
Q: One of the things that voters can read in your election program, is that you are promoting a reversal of current educational and cultural policy; you speak about the "creative human being." Is that going to be comprehensible in today's world of technology-cultism and drug legalization?

Zepp LaRouche: We are about to lose everything which we in Germany and in Europe have heretofore understood under the concept of Western Christian civilization. When Education Minister Rüttgers claims that the Humboldt educational

model has finally been outmoded, that means that either he's utterly incompetent, or else he must have the very worst oligarchical intentions. Because the whole idea of the Humboldt concept of education, was not to impart specific expertise in any one field, but rather to foster the development of the beauty which is characteristic of the young person. As Humboldt laid it out, specific realms of knowledge are better suited than others to that end: for example, the mastery of one's own language, which one can study in the most beautiful selections of Classical literature, drama, and poetry. But you also need to study universal history, because only the person who knows what tremendous efforts were necessary, spanning many generations, to reach our present state of development of human history — only such a person will, as Schiller says, feel a noble yearning to enrich this knowledge and pass it on to future generations. It is only on the basis of this moral duty to society, that a society can function. If you deprive education of this idea of the development of beauty of character and education as a citizen, then you are destroying the very foundations of society itself.

It may well be the case, that many voters, young and old, do not understand what we mean by the term "creative." The reason for this, is not that the techno-music is too loud, but rather, it is because we have undergone — even if we didn't realize it — a "cultural paradigm shift," especially over the

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past 30 years. If German citizens today could recall how differently they thought back in 1960, they'd barely recognize themselves. Yes, they've changed *that* much, step by step, over the past 30 years. The only worthwhile antidote, is to confront people polemically, since what's at stake here, is not only Germany's survival, but the survival of human civilization itself.

Q: You have challenged German President Roman Herzog to a public debate on Germany's future course. He thinks that the Netherlands and New Zealand are models to be emulated. What do you think?

Zepp LaRouche: President Herzog lacks any "vision for Germany," and then he comes up with this pathetic reference to Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States. Sweden is, in fact, the model for destruction of the social-welfare state. Holland has distinguished itself internationally through its policy of passive and active euthanasia: Every year, there are 50,000 cases of active euthanasia, the large majority of which occurred without the patient's approval. And that's certainly not a model that we need in our history here in Germany again. New Zealand is likewise an example for wiping out the social safety-net. In the United States, it is said that 12 million new jobs have been created; but people need to work two or three of those jobs at the same time, in order to have the same standard of living that they could have obtained with only one source of income 30 years ago. As a result, 80% of all Americans are in the process of becoming significantly poorer, while a tiny sliver of the population has become enormously richer.

I have challenged President Herzog to hold a public discussion with me on these matters, because, in my view, the Eurasian Land-Bridge—the central focus of rebuilding the world economy—points up an entirely different, and far more realistic perspective.

Our future will be decided on the fate of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The question is, how much destruction will be wreaked, before people finally fight through to its implementation—whether there will be another one or two generations of destruction, or whether we can decide to build it right now.

And in that event, there is no reason why the world can't experience the greatest economic miracle in human history; and there's no reason why we can't also get over the present cultural and moral crisis, and call forth a new cultural renaissance, in which humanity's best cultures collaborate—for example, Christianity, the positive tradition in Islam, as it bore fruit in the Arab renaissance of the caliphs around 800 A.D., and China's Confucian tradition.

Up to now, President Herzog has not felt the need to reply to my challenge. But I hope that he will do so sometime in the coming weeks and months, which will certainly be stormy times, full of social unrest, strikes, and stock market crashes; and, there will be growing public pressure on politicians to put their money where their mouths have been.

Sweden's history of forced sterilization

by Lotta-Stina Thronell

A two-part series on eugenics in Sweden's *Dagens Nyheter* on Aug. 20 and 21, has blown the cover off this country's 40-year history of legalized forced sterilization. The series by Maciej Zaremba, a Polish Catholic emigré to this predominantly Protestant country, struck a raw nerve in Sweden and overseas, by effectively showing how leading members of Sweden's Social Democracy, from the beginning of the century to the late 1960s, defended the Darwinian idea that human beings who could be legally classified as mentally retarded, promiscuous, or unproductive, should be deprived of the right to bear children. Zaremba succeeded in finishing off the myth that the Social Democracy was the protector of society's poor and oppressed: Quite the contrary, the poor were the very targets of the forced sterilization. Between 1935 and 1976, approximately 60,000 people were forcibly sterilized, with full sanction of the law.

Major newspapers throughout Europe reported on Zaremba's exposé. On Aug. 30, British journalist Jonathan Freedland wrote an astounding admission in the London *Guardian*, saying, "Forced sterilizations in Scandinavia have shocked the world. But the great founding fathers of British socialism had dreams almost as vile as those of the Nazis." Freedland named the high priests of British socialism: "The names of Russell, Webb, and Shaw still retain their luster—despite their association with the foulest idea of the 20th century. They escaped the reckoning. Perhaps now, posthumously, it's time to see them, and much of socialism itself, as they truly were."

The UN apparatus

While Zaremba's retrospective is all very well, he failed to put the spotlight on the fact that the very same Malthusian fascist ideology behind the forced sterilization laws, is still the underlying axiom for the thinking of most of the bureaucrats in the UN apparatus. In 1994, *EIR*'s Torbjörn Jerlerup, showed how, in the 1950s, Sweden took the point in overseas "population aid" ("How Swedish Race Hygienists Became the UN's Top 'Population Experts,'" *EIR*, April 8, 1994). Sweden, in the 1950s, wrote Jerlerup, launched the world's first bilateral aid projects to control "overpopulation" in Sri Lanka, India, and Tanzania. Parallel to this, the same Swedes who were proponents of forced sterilizations, such as Alva