

# Russian spotlight on LaRouche's policies

by Rachel Douglas

Lyndon LaRouche's economic analysis and policy perspective are the subject of continuing debate in the Russian press, particularly as the effects of the so-called "Asian crisis" make themselves felt in Russia.

Prof. Taras Muranivsky wrote in the Moscow weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* the week of April 2, about the Willard Group of 22 nations, scheduled to meet in Washington on April 16. (His headline was "The Meeting of the 22—22 Sick Men?") Even former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker admits that market deregulation—the post-1971, post-Bretton Woods order—has become a driver of the financial crisis in Asia, Muranivsky writes. U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin says that matters have reached the level of a threat to American national security. "The minister believes that the problems in the financial sector in developing countries are the reason for the crisis. He proposes to improve the situation in that sector by means of IMF credits. But, why are those credits gobbled up, while the crisis becomes deeper and deeper?"

The answer, according to the Russian professor, is that "the obvious problems in the financial sector are an effect, not a cause. The devaluation of the currencies of developing countries, and other financial and economic problems that have lowered the population's living standard and purchasing power, were provoked by currency speculation and other techniques of looting, which the existing world monetary and economic system perpetuates."

He cites the draft resolution of the National Farmers' Union in the United States, which called for a New Bretton Woods, then turns to "the major report by Lyndon LaRouche," which was the centerpiece of *EIR*'s March 18 seminar in Washington, attended by 20-some embassies, as well as government officials, to discuss the agenda for the Willard conference (see *EIR*, March 27). Muranivsky summarizes the recommendations of the seminar, for monetary regulation for stable exchange rates, protectionist measures in trade, and outlawing currency speculation.

## The Eurasian Land-Bridge

The March 11 issue of the Moscow daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* carried a one-and-a-half page article by Sergei Rogov, titled "The Contours of a New Russian Strategy; The Country Can Only Be Saved by Its Central Position on the Geoeconomic Map of Eurasia." The article is illustrated by a map of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, credited to *EIR* News Service and

captioned as "map from the 'Transeurasian Bridge' report, published by the Lyndon LaRouche Institute, Washington, 1997."

Professor Rogov is the director of the Institute of the U.S.A. and Canada, of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In previous public statements, he has expressed anxiety about the Chinese "Silk Route" rail development corridor's potential diversion of traffic from Russia's Trans-Siberian Railroad. He expresses that nervousness again in *Nezavisimaya*, writing that "the revival of the Great Silk Road could become an alternative to the transcontinental route across the Russian Federation." He accentuates the specter of a "geopolitical" threat to Russia, by discussing the insane *Foreign Affairs* article by Zbigniew Brzezinski, "A Geostrategy for Eurasia" (see *EIR*, Dec. 5, 1997, for Lyndon LaRouche's "Tweedledum Goofs Again" diagnostic of Brzezinski's ravings).

What Rogov's new article chiefly expresses, though, is something different: that the *only* hope for survival, for the Russian economy and the nation, is engagement in the Land-Bridge. The use of the *EIR* map sets the stage for the concluding section of Rogov's article, titled "A Strategy for Survival and Development." Rogov writes:

"Russia's geopolitical situation is defined by its unique location on two continents. It belongs both to Europe and to Asia, having vital interests in both regions. Unlike the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation cannot pretend to have the role of a superpower. But by the size of its territory, population, economic, scientific and technological, and military capacities, it may, as a great Eurasian power, become one of the leading participants in a multi-polar world. . . . Therefore, we need a coherent Eurasian strategy, which should integrate Russia's economic, technological, industrial, transport, information, and foreign policy, for at least a generation to come. . . . The survival and strengthening of Russia is only possible, if our neighbors both to the West (the European Community) and the East (the Asia-Pacific region) deem that cooperation with Moscow is in their interest. . . ."

"In my view, it is transportation and communications that should become, along with the power industry, the bulwarks of Russia's economic rebirth, and ensure for us the most advantageous positions in the world economy."

Rogov then examines Russian transportation technologies, and existing and new infrastructure projects, including joint ones with China.

He writes that, "naturally, the implementation of the Eurasian strategy is only possible, if it becomes the basis for the entire budget, tax, and credit policy of the federal government." Expressing some skepticism about the possibility of this, he holds out hope that "the private sector will play the main role in its implementation."

Rogov hopes that if Ukraine and Belarus become " 'gates' to the transcontinental 'Eurasian bridge,' " this will make it possible for the Commonwealth of Independent States to work as a genuine unit of cooperation.