

Editorial

How insane are the American people?

During a recent discussion with a Congressional aide in Washington, D.C., an *EIR* staffer was stressing the importance of the desperate international financial collapse in the development of the current strategic crisis. When the aide protested that the U.S. economy had never been better, the *EIR* representative told him that he was living in “virtual reality.” “So what?” responded the aide. “At least I go home happy every night, and will do so for as long as the bubble lasts. And you, who keep talking about the crisis, are likely to bring it on.”

If you are a typical American or European, you probably do not find this anecdote surprising. The United States and western Europe are full of putatively intelligent citizens who know that the “prosperity” of the markets is based on an unsustainable bubble, but who have decided that they will ignore reality, and “enjoy it while they can.” This is clinical insanity—and it is largely responsible for the crisis in which the world finds itself today.

In his cover article on Tony Blair and the Balkan war in this issue, Lyndon LaRouche puts a heavy emphasis on the danger which this psychosis represents. People who are hysterically wedded to the idea that “their money” depends upon the preservation of the hyperinflationary speculative bubble which is literally devouring the physical economies of the world, cannot be expected to face the truth about the strategic crisis, he stresses.

So, what is the real problem? Why do otherwise sane people insist upon denying the reality of the world financial and economic debacle?

Perhaps you could say that it’s because they are lied to by the media. That is certainly true enough. But over the course of the last several years, the very same media have also repeatedly provided the documentation that any sane person would need to show that the bubble cannot be sustained. The unbelievable ratios of profit to earnings, the narrowness of the band of stocks which are actually rising in value, and the collapse of actual export markets around the world should dampen any faith in an endless upturn.

No, it’s not just that people are being lied to. They actually *want* to believe in the chimera of the markets, and they have an immoral commitment to denying the genocide on which it is based.

We in the LaRouche movement have been pointing out this truth since the late 1960s. The Third World is collapsing, we said, and the American population has a moral responsibility to do something about that. If Americans do not act in order to change the financial system which is creating this destruction, then eventually the devastation laying waste those “foreigners” is going to hit here at home.

Americans did not act as required. For the last three decades, the looting of Asia, Africa, Ibero-America, and eastern Europe has increased to the point where large sections of the globe are suffering absolute declines in life expectancy and populations. This has shown up as cheaper goods exported into the United States, as well as cheaper labor “competing” with American labor. It has resulted in capital flight into U.S. financial markets, which has been described as “prosperity.” The signs of apparent prosperity in Europe and the United States have often been directly connected to the destruction of the rest of the world.

It will not go on forever. Even a yuppie in a sober moment can see that.

What must be corrected is the moral aberration. As LaRouche pointed out in his *The Road to Recovery* (*EIR*, Feb. 19, 1999), there *is* a common interest among nations, and a concept of the general welfare within nations, both of which can be scientifically and humanly defined. Those who couldn’t care less about what happens to the rest of the world, while they celebrate their mutual funds dividends, do not actually have the moral fitness to survive.

We are long overdue for a financial crash. But the financial oligarchs could keep the bubble going by sucking more blood out of the world economy for a while more. Look at the maps (pp. 6-7 and 20) on the spread of famine and disease, in our last issue. Think about reality. You can face it, because LaRouche has presented the solution, which is ready to be acted on, today.