

Editorial

How such tragedy occurs!

The two so-called front-runners in the U.S. Presidential election, are viewed internationally as corrupt, ignorant, and arrogant—possibly the worst choice ever offered American voters. How could this happen?

George W. Bush and Al Gore, Jr. were selected in a corrupt, rigged primary process, in which only a tiny fraction of eligible voters participated. Those cynics who don't vote, are as much to blame as those Democrats who support Gore "to stop Bush," and those Republicans who support Bush "to stop Gore."

The culpability lies, not only with the elites who rig the elections, but with the *vox populi*.

Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche quotes President James Monroe on the causes for the prospective nominations for President of Bush and Gore:

Had the people of the United States been educated in different principles, had they been less intelligent, less independent, or less virtuous, can it be believed that we should have maintained the same steady and consistent career or been blessed with the same success? . . . It is only when the people become ignorant and corrupt, when they degenerate into a populace, that they are incapable of exercising the sovereignty. Usurpation is then an easy attainment, and an usurper soon found. The people themselves become the willing instruments of their own debasement and ruin. Let us, then, look to the great cause, and endeavor to preserve it in full force. Let us by all wise and constitutional measures promote intelligence among the people as the best means of preserving our liberties. . . .

—James Monroe, First Inaugural Address,
March 4, 1817

The very same issue was confronted in the sixth century B.C. by Solon of Athens, LaRouche points out. In his poem "The Constitutional Order," Solon warned Athenians not to fall back into their old, wicked ways:

Never will our city be destroyed by Zeus' decree,
Nor by the will of the bless'd immortal gods,

For, born of a potent father, great-hearted guardian
Pallas Athena spreads her hands o'er our city—
But, by money seduced, the Athenians themselves
Seek mindlessly to corrupt the great city,
Joined by the iniquitous schemes of their leaders,
Who from arrogance great woes shall suffer:
For they understand not how to restrain gluttony,
Nor best to order their feasting in quiet. . . .

Sparing neither sacred ground nor public goods,
Greedily they steal from the one place or the other.
They fail to protect the rev'rend temples of Justice,
She who notes silently the "what is and what has
been,"

Who in time shall come exacting retribution.
Behold, an inex'orable harm visits all Athens:
To vile slavery is she swiftly progressed,
Which rouses up from slumber civil strife and war—
War that wipes out for many their cherished youth;
Now our much-loved city is soon worn down by
faction,

While the wicked stir them to confrontations.
These evils ensnare the whole people; but the poor,
Many of them, depart to a foreign land,
Plundered, and bound up in shameful fetters.

[For the slave's yoke bears all other wickedness.]
Thus does the public evil come home to each of us:
Straining, the courtyard gates no longer hold fast,
The evil leaps o'er the high walls; it finds everyone,
Even him fleeing to the inmost chamber.

This my soul commands me teach the Athenians:
A bad constitution brings civic turmoil,
But a good one shows well-ordering and coherence,
As it puts shackles 'round about wrong-doing—
It smoothes out the rough; it checks greed, tempers
hubris,

And withers fruits of reckless impulse.
It takes crooked judgments and makes them straight,
Softens arrogant deeds, halts seditious acts,
And ends the bile of grievous strife. And so, under it,
Everything for mankind become the whole and
wise.