

Mexico Is On the Move; What's Wrong With U.S. Democrats?

by Gretchen Small

Since Mexico's July 2 Presidential elections, candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador has provided a lesson in the kind of leadership required, if a world suitable for human beings is to emerge out of the ongoing collapse of the international financial system. Declared the loser in Mexico's highly contested Presidential elections, painted as an authoritarian demagogue who refuses to play by the rules of today's system, offered a seat at the table of power would he but bow before its masters, López Obrador has not cowered, but instead has gone to the Mexican people, and offered them a strategy to defeat the private economic interests that seek to loot Mexico and its people to death.

A "rapacious minority" would silence any questioning of the legitimacy of the declared results of the election, in order to install their loyal instrument, National Action Party (PAN) candidate Felipe Calderón in the Presidency, López Obrador declared, but we will force them to count the votes again, ballot by ballot, because fraud was committed and a majority of the population is with us.

Addressing the estimated 500,000 Mexicans who on July 8 answered his call for a post-election rally in support of that demand, López Obrador identified the real issue at stake in this election fight:

"We are conscious that we are facing an economic and political power group that is accustomed to win at all costs, without moral scruples of any kind. They really don't care about the country, much less the suffering of the majority of the Mexican people. Their only goal is to maintain and increase their privileges. It has been precisely the domination by this group, of this rapacious minority, which has brought the country to ruin, and has converted it into an ocean of inequalities." It is they who have driven millions of Mexicans "to abandon the country and their families to go look for work on the other side of the border."

López Obrador may not have named those economic interests as the offspring of the synarchist financial cartels that created Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco in their day, but he has not hesitated to call the black propaganda against him what it is: a *fascist* campaign of lies fed by economic interests clinging to power.

Lyndon LaRouche promptly endorsed López Obrador's warning that Calderón and Co. are out to rape Mexico, and must be stopped. Mexico is now positioned to join the battle for Ibero-American unity being led by Argentine President Néstor Kirchner, LaRouche pointed out, while specifying the crucial programmatic measures and credit facilities required for Ibero-America to finally grow again. (See box.) LaRouche's statement, now circulating widely in Mexico and around the continent, was quickly published by Mexican and Bolivian political websites.

At the July 8 rally, López Obrador acknowledged that this fight will be neither quick nor easy. Let's agree to come back the following weekend, on Sunday, July 16, and this time bring in delegations from all of the 300 electoral districts, he proposed. To come back with greater force, each person should assume responsibility for bringing others to the next rally. So, too, we should set up "informational committees" to keep everyone informed, because the media will black our efforts out, he said.

LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) organizers at the rally described an atmosphere of revolutionary mass ferment. People sense that this is a historic moment, in which change must be secured, because it will be impossible later. There was a sense of fight, of renewed pride in being citizens, and that the policies which had gone so horribly wrong could be changed. When LYM organizers told people, as they handed out the LaRouche movement's newspaper, about the role of Lazard Frères's Felix Rohatyn as the epitome of the synarchist



Website of Andrés Manuel López Obrador

López Obrador told the crowd of a half-million Mexicans July 8, "We are facing an economic and political power group that is accustomed to win at all costs, without moral scruples of any kind."

financial enemy behind Mexico's crisis, people would turn, listen closely, and then there would be a chorus of, "Give me one of those," "To me, too," as people reached for every paper the LYM had.

As LaRouche Has Been Telling You . . .

EIR publishes López Obrador's speech in its entirety in the pages which follow. Events are already proving that López Obrador is right when he proposes that if people refuse to grovel, victory, while not guaranteed, is possible. LaRouche's hammering at Democratic Party leaders, that victory lies in doing as Franklin Roosevelt did, mobilizing the lower 80% of income brackets which financial interests abandon, is being vindicated in the streets of Mexico today.

Calderón and outgoing President Vicente Fox's PAN government are refusing to budge, insisting, desperately, that Mexican law does not permit a general vote recount, and that the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), which ran the election, is not to be questioned. (On a humorous note, according to investigative reporter Alfredo Jalife-Rahme, not only was IFE head Luis Carlos Ugalde's previous job at the CIDE, a think-tank of PAN-aligned ideologues from the Mont Pelerin Society's fascist Austrian economic school, but his favorite pastime is magic!)

Calderón and crew, however, now find themselves in the unusual situation, of bucking demands from the international financial interests they otherwise so readily obey. Recognizing the truth of those Mexican and international figures—including LaRouche—who warn that an attempt to impose Calderón by sheer force will produce such an explosion that

Mexico will become ungovernable, on July 7, the *New York Times*, followed on July 10 by London's *Financial Times*, published editorials calling for precisely the vote-by-vote recount López Obrador is demanding. "It would be foolhardy for Mexico's elites to underestimate the dangers that this situation represents, especially bearing in mind the country's history," the *Financial Times* warned.

Feeling the heat, on July 13, IFE officials announced they would suspend any further opening of electoral packets. The announcement came two days after López Obrador called a press conference to present evidence that the IFE had broken the seals on warehouses where ballots are being stored, and that this was a bald and *illegal* attempt to cover up fraud. Only the Federal electoral court, which is reviewing challenges to the election results, is authorized at this stage to open the ballots, López Obrador pointed out. IFE officials insisted that it was not illegal for them to review ballots, but said that as their "contribution to the tranquility of all of Mexican society," they would let the Federal Electoral Court make any such decisions in the future. The next day, however, López Obrador charged that the IFE was continuing to illegally enter warehouses.

Breaking With Mexico's Would-Be Rohatyn

According to some reports, López Obrador has also distanced himself from the would-be "Rohatyn of Mexico," billionaire Carlos Slim. Slim had visibly sided with López Obrador earlier in the campaign, and in some deluded circles in López Obrador's Democratic Revolutionary Party, the word had gone out that López Obrador would not need to rely on foreign investment—or a reform of the international

LaRouche Says ‘Stop Rape of Mexico,’ Back López Obrador

This press release was issued by the LaRouche Political Action Committee on July 10, under the title “Mexico’s López Obrador Is Right To Say That the Calderón Gang Intends To Rape Mexico and Its People.”

Former U.S. Presidential candidate and renowned economist Lyndon LaRouche commented today on the speech delivered by Mexican Presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador on July 8, before a crowd of up to a half-million people gathered in Mexico City’s central plaza, in which López Obrador announced that he was challenging the July 2 Presidential elections, and demanding a vote-by-vote recount.

“To use plain English, López Obrador said that the gang around PAN candidate Felipe Calderón intends to rape Mexico and its people. People throughout the hemisphere must take López Obrador’s warnings seriously. The very fate of the hemisphere hangs in the balance. Join with me and with the *New York Times* to crush this atrocity,” LaRouche stated.

LaRouche elaborated on the context of the Mexican developments, and the programmatic measures that must be taken:

“Ibero-America is being brought together around the alliance in which Argentine President Néstor Kirchner has been key, and Kirchner’s dealing with Venezuela has been crucial in doing that. Now the question arises: Where does Mexico fit in, in terms of this attempt to unify the region?

“People should refer back to my *Operation Juarez*. That was in 1982, but it’s still the program for today. The world situation is somewhat different, but the principle is the same. And therefore the point is, there should be an orientation toward building up in the Americas this chain

of cooperation among sovereign nation states.”

In light of the activities of the Nazi U.S. banker Felix Rohatyn of Lazard Frères, and his associates in Mexico and elsewhere, LaRouche underscored:

“It has to be emphasized that *there is no cheap credit available*. There is *none*. There is only *Dracula credit* available, which gives the opportunity for a lender to suck your blood and give you nothing. Therefore you must create a mechanism of credit, which has to be a *new* mechanism of credit, by putting the old system, which is bankrupt, into reorganization.

“Operation Juárez is the principle it’s based on.” LaRouche reiterated. “The orientation has not changed. Back then, we were fighting to defend Mexico against what was coming out of the United States. And now Mexico has experienced what was coming out of the United States then, with a loss of its economy and its sovereignty. Don’t trust any private lenders who are not controlled by some kind of coalition of governments, to make sure the credit is long-term, cheap, and that it goes into infrastructure—public works primarily, and industries which are stimulated by public works. This is where we stand now.

“López Obrador is absolutely right in saying that what they are doing, is that they are looting Mexico and its people by sucking them into the United States, like a great vacuum cleaner, through the sucking power of poverty, and looting.

“We don’t want risk capital investments as such,” LaRouche summarized. “What we need throughout the hemisphere is long-term investments in solid, basic economic infrastructure, as a stimulant for every section of the economy.” LaRouche pointed to his standing proposal that Mexico should develop its oil industry as a transition to a nuclear energy-based, high-technology economy, as an example of the kind of policy that is required.

“Study what’s going on in Russia, what’s going on in Europe, what’s going on in China,” LaRouche suggested. “Don’t believe fairy tales; don’t believe the tequila dreams that some promote.”

financial system—because Slim’s “Mexican” money would bail Mexico out.

Slim, touted as the third richest man in the world, is no more “Mexican” than Rohatyn is “American.” A telecommunications mogul, whose big boost to riches came when he bought Mexico’s state telephone company from the Carlos Salinas regime in 1990 for a song, Slim is now an integral part of the global telecommunications cartel, tied closely to AT&T. In recent years, he has promoted himself as “anti-IMF” and concerned about development—all the while promoting *private* construction of infrastructure. Among his ex-

panded family business empire—which was said to employ a quarter million Mexicans in 2003, and now extends across Ibero-America and into the United States—is Grupo Inbursa, Mexico’s seventh largest bank (as of 2004). As *EIR* noted in its July 2, 2004 feature, “Spanish Banks Recolonize Ibero-America,” Inbursa specializes in “activities of a volatile nature,” making “financial investment in corporate paper and international bonds of a speculative rating.” Included in Inbursa’s “volatile” business, was a 1996 partnership with Lazard Frères in Mexico Partners Trust, a jointly managed risk capital fund investing in Mexico.