

HOLD A REFERENDUM!

Ireland Is a Test Case For the EU Austerity Pact

by Gene Douglas

Gene Douglas of the LaRouche Irish Brigade gave this speech to the Berlin Schiller Institute conference, Feb. 25, 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to give just a brief address to introduce our group, and to summarize the current political landscape in Ireland.

My name is Gene Douglas, and I represent the LaRouche Irish Brigade. We chose this title because we thought that these three words, “LaRouche”—“Irish”—“Brigade,” may generate some anxiety in certain circles of the British establishment! It is unfortunate that Ireland had not developed such a group long ago, so that it may have been firmly established and more able to face the present challenges.

And, personally speaking, I wish I had discovered the LaRouche Movement 30 years ago, because I would certainly have joined up then. However, our new group is growing quickly and we will endeavor to make an



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Gene Douglas spoke on behalf of the Irish LaRouche Brigade at the Schiller conference. “The essence, the bedrock, of our nation is republicanism,” he said.

impact in the critical period ahead.

I would like to begin, if I may, by sending our best regards to our republican friends in Sinn Féin. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, was an invited speaker to this conference; however, due to work commitments in the Dáil (Irish Parliament), he has been unable to attend. For that, he sends his sincere apologies and also his best wishes for the event.

A Republican Tradition

Sinn Féin and we, the LaRouche Irish Brigade, represent an unbroken, centuries-long tradition of republicanism in Ireland. The essence, the bedrock, of our nation is republicanism, and the various manifestations

of British Liberalism that have afflicted us in recent years are, you could say, merely a film of detritus which will be soon washed away as our republican principles come to the fore once again.



Ireland's nationalist leaders Michael Collins (left), and Arthur Griffith, founder of Sinn Féin, are an inspiration to today's Irish republican movement, in its determination to sweep away all "manifestations of British liberalism."

In fact, now, as we rediscover and begin to disseminate the ideas of physical economy presented by Arthur Griffith¹ in 1905, at the nation's inception, and later by Michael Collins,² we trust that we can play a significant role in the final defeat of the British Empire. Wouldn't that be a just cause for celebration after 800 years of occupation?

The most immediate battle ahead for us is to force the Irish Government to live up to its moral and constitutional obligations and hold a referendum on the Eurozone fiscal compact. Then, we must ensure that this "austerity pact" is firmly rejected by the Irish people. I believe that outcome is already practically guaranteed, given the austerity and misery imposed on the people by the Troika [the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the IMF].

This is a particularly important issue for all of Europe, given the confirmation by German Minister for European Affairs Michael Link, in Dublin recently, that EU negotiators sought to design their policy in such a

1. See Paul Gallagher, "What Is Sinn Féin? The American System vs. British Geopolitics in Ireland," *EIR*, Dec. 10, 2010.

2. See Paul Gallagher, "Aiming at Victory in Ireland," *EIR*, March 21, 1997.

way as to avoid a referendum in Ireland. So, they are using Ireland as a kind of test case for their policies.

We are fortunate to have a patriotic, republican-minded and wise President in Michael D. Higgins, and we are confident that he will defend the Irish Constitution robustly in the face of this assault upon it. President Higgins has earned our admiration, in recent years in particular, as he has been the only President in Europe, as far as I'm aware, to have spoken out in support of the Glass-Steagall principle. He has also highlighted the folly of Austrian School economics, at every opportunity, and his most recent engagement on both these issues, at the London School of Economics, was both timely and courageous.

Looking Toward the Arctic

The Irish Brigade has become more emboldened over the past year, as we follow LaRouche's lead, and look towards the Arctic, and the potential for new alliances based on the principles of physical-economic development and cooperation. In this respect, we were greatly heartened by the visit to Ireland last week of Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping. The significance of this visit should not be overlooked or trivialized, as those who think in monetarist terms may tend to do. It is much more than simply an opportunity to increase trade. As the only European country on the Chinese delegation's itinerary, I hope and trust that the visit signals the beginning of precisely the kind of alliance that is so critically necessary at the present time, as we referred to in our recent brief paper, "Ireland—An Economic Revival" (see below).

We look forward to long-term cooperation with our Chinese friends and others, who are committed to physical economic development, in the decades ahead.

To finish, let me give you a nice example of how the LaRouche message is spreading and becoming increasingly recognized worldwide. The LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) has created a new Twitter channel, and had noticed recently a surge in activity on it. Upon investigation it turned out to be taxi drivers—not from Italy, but from all over Ireland—who were tuning in. This was a completely new development, and a tribute to the impact of Claudio Giudici,³ not only in Italy but far beyond.

Thank you.

3. See Andrew Spinaus, "Glass-Steagall Bill Sent to Italian Senate," *EIR*, Feb. 17, 2012.