
I. Re-Examine Your Axioms

IN 2018

Escaping the Fishbowl

by Robert Ingraham

Dec. 31—The subject of this offering is the prospects before us as we move into 2018, including the necessary changes in policy, in America and Europe, that must be effected if war is to be avoided and peaceful relations achieved among nations in the new year. This urgent question is one of the major themes developed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche in her December 28, 2017 webcast (full text in this issue of *EIR*; video link new-paradigm.schillerinstitute.com), and it is the challenge that must immediately become the highest priority for all persons of good will at this moment in time. We shall briefly recap a few of the salient points made by Mrs. LaRouche, then situate her observations within the context of several events from 2017 which highlight the potential of this moment. Highly relevant observations from Lyndon LaRouche will then be presented, for the purpose of indicating the pathway to victory.

In her webcast, Mrs. LaRouche stresses that 2018 must become the year in which the United States and the nations of Europe give up the outlook of *geopolitics*. This is now a life-and-death issue for all of humanity. She states that, despite the efforts of President Trump to reverse the war dynamic of the 16-year Bush and Obama Presidencies, the neo-cons and neo-liberals are determined to sabotage the Trump initiatives and stick with the image of China and Russia as enemies. They want to continue the British empire geopolitical game of divide and conquer.

Zepp-LaRouche says, “In the almost four and a half years now since Xi Jinping, the President of China, has put the Belt and Road Initiative, the New Silk Road, on the table, there is a dynamic which is unbeliev-

able... Well over seventy countries and forty large international associations and institutions are cooperating with the New Silk Road.” This is the *New Paradigm*, the era of economic and cultural “win-win” cooperation, a paradigm already in existence and rapidly expanding, and one which can become the global reality in 2018, if the nations of the trans-Atlantic world bury the heritage of British geopolitics once and for all.

Will the world be dragged into conflict and war by the diseased minds who represent the old system, or will 2018 become the year when America and Europe join with the rest of the world in a project for a global economic, scientific, and cultural Renaissance?

The Present Potential

The election of Donald Trump fourteen months ago, and the initiatives of his first year in office, already demonstrate the potential for the needed strategic shift



White House
Donald Trump being sworn in as President, Jan. 20, 2017. Melania Trump (center).



news.cn

Matt Pottinger, U.S. National Security Council Senior Director for Asia.



White House

President Trump at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit with China President Xi Jinping, Nov. 11, 2017.



NASA/Aubrey Gemignani

President Trump signing Space Policy Directive 1, a change in national space policy, providing for a human return to the Moon, to be followed by missions to Mars and beyond.

to occur. During his 2015-2016 campaign, candidate Trump repeatedly called for an end to the “permanent war” policy of the Bush and Obama years. He stated his firm opposition to the policy of “regime change,” and he called for an end to the demonization of Russia.

Within weeks of taking office, President Trump ended the Obama policy of overthrowing the government of Syria, and he entered into a limited military cooperation with Russia for the defeat of ISIS in both Syria and Iraq, actions anathema to both the British and the previous White House occupant. Then, beginning in April, he took a series of initiatives, all of which sharply broke with previous U.S. policy:

- On April 6 and 7, President Trump hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago, Florida, welcoming him to the United States, and beginning an ongoing dialogue with the Chinese leader.

- Trump decided to send a high-level delegation, led by White House adviser Matt Pottinger, to the May 14-15 Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, this despite demands from London and Wall Street to boycott the conference.

- On June 1, President Trump announced that the United States will withdraw from the genocidal Paris Accords on “climate change.”

- On Oct. 26, President Trump announced the beginning of a revived War on Drugs. Since that announcement, several significant steps have been taken, particularly to address the murderous opioid crisis now sweeping the nation. This reverses eight years of Barack Obama’s implicit endorsement of drug legalization.

- In November President Trump visited China, where he not only deepened his personal relationship with President Xi, but he also signed an agreement for \$250 billion of Chinese investments in the U.S.A.

- On Dec. 11, President Trump announced his policy on the Space Program, wherein he signed a new space policy directive to send Americans back to the Moon “for long-term exploration and use,” and on to Mars. Again, this represents a 180-degree turn from the Obama policy.

Make no mistake, this is an incipient revolution. The changes that have been initiated are

real and profound, not illusory. At the same time, however, adolescent giddiness based on what has been accomplished so far would be a serious mistake. The powers in London and Wall Street, as well as among American neo-cons and neo-liberals, are fiercely determined to stop Trump's policy changes, and the treasonous inquisition of Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller is continuing. One has to look no further than the content of the Dec. 18 National Security Strategy Report—a report which Trump had to personally intervene against to tone down its findings—to witness the depth of anti-Russian and anti-Chinese geopolitics which permeates the U.S. political establishment. It will not abandon this outlook without a fight.

The problem here is that most decent Americans, including many, many self-identified Trump supporters, don't really understand what is going on. Since the inauguration of Harry S Truman in 1945—now 73 years ago—Americans have been born and raised in a culture where imperial geopolitics has been accepted as a “fact of life,” an unchallenged axiom of the “way things are.” People know nothing different, except perhaps in their hopes and aspirations. At the same time, the monumental, history-changing implications of the Belt and Road Initiative are simply being kept from the American public. Media outlets do not report on it, political leaders denigrate it—and, if raised at all, it is usually portrayed as some sort of “communist plot.”

To solve this problem, it is necessary to get at a deeper level of the difficulty.

In its Sept. 17, 2004 issue, *EIR* published an article, authored by Lyndon LaRouche, under the title “[Intelligence Organization: How Can Intelligence Serve An Un-Intelligible President?](#)” That article, which addresses the crisis in the intelligence establishment in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and which includes several specific recommendations for reform, also raises a more fundamental and profound issue, one which is of immediate relevance for solving the problem we face today.

The Necessary Remedy

In fighting to effect policy change, the solution is never to be found in attempting to change “what” people think, nor even in understanding “how” people think. Rather, what is required to bring about a real transformation is to investigate “why” people think in certain ways about critical issues. What are the, usually hidden and unconscious, influences which keep people on a pre-set mental path?

Imagine yourself as a fish, in a watery bowl, lips pressed up against the glass, oblivious to the larger world outside. If you don't understand the deadly evil of British geopolitics, that's the world you inhabit. Your mind, your sense of identity, is prevented from thinking outside of the externally imposed limits which you perceive as “reality.”

In his 2004 article, Lyndon LaRouche zeroes in on the need to comprehend this problem of the “fishbowl mentality,” what he calls the “electric fences” and self-imposed habituated delusions which restrain people's ability to recognize reality, and lead to errors of judgement and action. LaRouche points directly to the errors of method which flow from faulty axiomatic assumptions, and he demonstrates that there is a fatal flaw in how

most Americans understand their own history, including the historic opposition of America to the British Empire.

On strategic matters, LaRouche asks, “What is the Elephant in the Honeymoon Bed” whose existence no one wants to recognize? LaRouche points to the historic role of James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allan Poe as the epitome of what a functioning intelligence operation should strive to be. Both Cooper and Poe start from the standpoint of a deep understanding as to the nature and mission of the American Republic. At the same time, both operate from a brutal insight into the nature and intention of the oligarchy. They recognize that the true nature of the strategic reality is one of an ongoing war between two axiomatically opposed systems, two divergent outlooks as to the nature of



New York State Historical Assn.

James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) in naval uniform.

human society.

The reason why people today are blind to the elephant in their bed is that they live within a post-1945 pro-British culture, one whose axioms they accept as “real,” and they wrongly believe that their outlook on the world and society originates within their own minds. Their notion of mankind and the potential future is stunted, like a deformed and malnourished animal. They don’t understand human—or American—history.

In addressing the question of “how” people think, LaRouche raises the subject of Fallacy of Composition. He says,

Fallacy of composition is usually expressed in two categorically distinct ways: (a) Fallacy of composition of selection of category of facts. This includes both the omission of essential categories of facts, and the addition of irrelevant categories of facts. (b) Fallacy of composition of category of principles which define the functional relationship among facts: both exclusion of relevant true principles, or concealment of those principles’ employment, or, also, the active or covert addition of false categories of principles into the “equation.” It is the second category of fallacy of composition which defines what I have commonly termed “the fishbowl syndrome.”

If you don’t examine the underlying principles which define what you think, then you will never understand why you think what you think. The defining issue which will determine victory or defeat in 2018 is whether or not growing numbers of citizens, elected officials, and other policy-makers and leaders can make the breakthrough to think outside the fishbowl of British geopolitics.

America’s Mission Has Always Been ‘Win-Win’

Begin with George Washington’s “Farewell Address.” Proceed next through John Quincy Adams’ Monroe Doctrine, the anti-British Empire policy of Abraham Lincoln, the peace initiatives of Ulysses



Engraving by Phillibrown, from a painting by Alonzo Chappel, 1866
Washington’s 1796 Farewell to His Officers.

Grant, the economic development outlook of William McKinley, and Franklin Roosevelt’s virulent opposition to colonialism. This is the actual American Patriotic Tradition. Its moral and philosophical roots are in the notion of Man defined by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution’s Preamble. From 1776 to 1945, the underlying Constitutional basis for American policy was distinguished by its opposition to oligarchy, empire and British Geopolitics. During that era, most notably among the best of our Presidents, America’s foreign policy was fully coherent with the concept of the “Benefit of the Other,” as prescribed in the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia. America’s mission was—and must be today—determined by this cooperative spirit.

Lyndon LaRouche has already put forward the path toward economic recovery in his “Four Laws,” and LaRouche’s remedy is fully coherent with the Belt and Road Initiative. But to get there, Americans are going to have to challenge themselves. The fallacy of composition of principle, the habituated delusion, that must be overcome in 2018 is the acceptance of the oligarchical view of mankind as antagonistic beasts. This is a faulty axiom. Beasts, like oligarchs, fight one another. Humans build a better future. A New World awaits. Seventy nations have already joined. What will America do?