
Book Review

LaRouche on the Toynbee factor in British grand strategy

by Criton Zoakos, Editor-in-Chief

"There is hardly a task worthier of speedy accomplishment than the publication of this book," was the unanimous agreement of the New Benjamin Franklin Publishing House editorial board, upon reading the manuscript of *The Toynbee Factor in British Grand Strategy*, the latest book by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Mr. LaRouche, probably the most prolific American writer on important topics in recent decades, commands a grip on argument and creative force which has made him the beloved thinker of many and the object of compulsive hatred of others. His latest book, *The Toynbee Factor*, clarifies beyond ambiguity the crucial and many times unspoken issues upon which are based the controversies and polarization around the person of Mr. LaRouche. The book's primary objective is to lay bare the causes of the national failure of the United States, primarily in foreign policy formulation; but also in general conduct in the pursuit of national purpose.

His identification of these causes will knock the proverbial socks off the complacent philistine and odd Dean of Political Science Department who flatulently deems himself "well informed" in such matters. No matter. As LaRouche himself points out, "Lord Carrington's close collaborators will not disagree so much with what is reported in this report, as the fact that the matter has been brought into the public light." *The Toynbee Factor's* thesis, of course, is that the cause of the United States' failure in foreign policy lies in the fact that the United States has allowed the European, primarily British oligarchy to capture its foreign policy-making institutions. This is a fact which will not be contested by anyone who knows.

Perhaps most shocking to the Toynbee school will be LaRouche's proof that human civilization, as adducible from evidence of calendars and epic myths, must be dated back as far as 42,000 years. It was not until the ancient maritime civilization, reflected in epics such as the Indian *Rigveda*, was destroyed by barbarian tribes that the age of astrology, which the oligarchical school reflects, came into existence.

Thus, LaRouche locks his fire on the question: what has happened to the character of Americans that they permit the oligarchy to run U.S. policy? Or, as he puts it, "It is past time someone took up the question 'How come?'"

The answer is not pleasant, but the answer is there.

A fundamental shift in our national character has been caused which accounts for a discrepancy between private morality (of that majority which still values moral conduct in private affairs) and public morality of policy-making. Privately moral persons will admit this, with some difficulty. Many of them will claim that "nothing can be done about it." A few, those morally more gifted, will seek ways for remedy. It is for those few that *The Toynbee Factor* has been written.

Our national character has been tampered with because we have tolerated in our mental, cultural and scientific life, including the area of "entertainment," the most extensive outpouring of banality and hedonism. What occurs inside the minds of members of our culture, from the musical performances of Bruno Walter and Arturo Toscanini, to the grotesque empiricist outlooks in natural science progressively more dominant since the Solvay Conference, to the hardly concealed pornography of television "soap" and Neronian "sports," is all coherently reducible to a single phenomenon of mental life: infantile regression, efficiently identified by LaRouche as the "oligarchical principle" in ordering cultures and societies.

LaRouche has brought forward a major challenge to Toynbee's contention that the "oligarchical principle" is a more or less "eternal," permanent feature in the ordering of human behavior within civilization. This challenge, which will provoke howls of hysteria for years to come, is founded on LaRouche's revolutionary historiographical method, in which he synthesizes the evidence drawn from surviving historical records, economic evidence, thermodynamic and technological transformation evidence, to adduce laws of human behavior upon which he can rest his "Atlas Epic"

hypothesis.

Who ruined our foreign policy?

It is not often that the reader of a major book on United States foreign policy, written in part as an appendix to testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (as Mr. LaRouche's latest book is), finds the more regrettable and painful "secrets" of his or her family and personal life paraded as exhibits of evidence into a court inquiry, as it were, into the matter of "who ruined our foreign policy?" Yet *The Toynbee Factor* is, in its poetic quality, less than a grand court proceeding and more like an Aeschylean tragedy in which the reader, like the audience in the *Eumenides*, suddenly realizes that he or she, is the dramatic actor on the stage, compelled by the "laws" of his/her culture to march ineluctably into doom and expiation. Thus, LaRouche's reader is caught, inside his own tragedy, calling out, "don't do it," "don't march into Fate's destruction," till he discovers that it is to himself that he calls out. The solution to such Aeschylean tragedy as this through which our nation is going, is not for the individual actor to change the course of his action, because within the "laws" of his culture, any course of action will lead to doom. The solution is for the reader, like the Aeschylean audience in the *Eumenides*, to become the *Areopagus*, the lawmaker-within-the-play, and effect a shift in the laws which determine the course of the drama.

No easy matter

For a society in such an advanced stage of cancer, this is no easy matter—it takes no less a scholar than LaRouche to attempt a solution.

This reviewer has identified at least a score of major scientific themes, each of which, in happier times, would have justified the establishment of a new disciplinary department in major universities, the which Mr. LaRouche summarily develops with compelling arguments in *The Toynbee Factor*. The entrenched flatulence of our culture's practices in mathematics, physics, history, economics, music, poetry, philology is given a trouncing, which shall have salutary effects for our social health if the gifted layman, rather than bow before the rumps of Philistia, joins with LaRouche to kick these asses out of court and out of our public consciousness. But for the layman to do so, he or she must be gripped by the same ferocious, ruthless passion to preserve the integrity of moral mind against the foul encroachments of the Kissingers and similar counterfeits now adulated by our republic's sheep—the same ruthless passion which dominates Mr. LaRouche's latest book.

The editors of the New Benjamin Franklin Publishing House, sharing, as citizens of this republic, in the near-death agony of this ruined culture are, like the

author of *The Toynbee Factor*, gripped by the question: "Has the American people lost the moral fitness to survive?" The answer to this question will remain in suspension for a while, for it must be arrived at in a truly Aeschylean manner: you, the reader/viewer, must recognize yourself in the pathetic actions of the tragic person on stage and, with us, you must act to change the laws of human behavior regulating your dying culture. There you, like us, should find that there is no challenge worthier of your contribution than the speedy publication of this book and its circulation throughout the United States.

Since our nation's public life has been deprived of the possibility of cultivating its moral judgment in great performances of Shakespearean or Marlovian political tragedies, let us now take this book, and make the households of America, from coast to coast, the stage of our Aeschylean resolution.

The Toynbee Factor is available from New Benjamin Franklin Publishing House. For more information call (212) 247-7484 or (212) 247-8820, or write New Benjamin Franklin Publishing House, 304 W. 58th St., 5th Floor, New York, New York 10019.

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