

Let us rebuild Poland!

Jonathan Tennenbaum proves that Poland, using "American System" economics, can become an industrial powerhouse.

On Oct. 12, 1988 U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche gave a press conference in West Berlin, in which he called on Russia's rulers to permit the United States and its allies to rebuild the devastated economy of Poland, as a precondition for Western aid in solving the Soviet Union's own dramatic food crisis. LaRouche stated:

"I shall propose the following concrete perspectives to my government. We shall say to Moscow: 'We will help you. We shall act to establish Food for Peace agreements among the international community, with the included goal that neither the people of the Soviet bloc nor the developing nations shall go hungry. In response to our good faith in doing that for you, let us do something which will set an example of what can be done to help solve the economic crisis throughout the Soviet bloc generally.' Let us say that the United States and Western Europe will cooperate to accomplish the successful rebuilding of the economy of Poland. There will be no interference in the political system of government, but only a kind of 'Marshall Plan' aid to rebuild Poland's industry and agriculture."

The key passages of LaRouche's Berlin press conference were presented to the American people in a half-hour nationwide television broadcast on Oct. 31, 1988. In that broadcast LaRouche demanded an end to U.S. administration policies of selling out the vital interests of the United States and Western civilization as a whole in exchange for a "New Yalta" deal with the Soviet empire. LaRouche's proposal for rebuilding Poland was repeated in a pre-election nationwide CBS broadcast, on Nov. 5, 1988.

The response to LaRouche's policy moves was rapid. On Oct. 14, 1988, just two days after the historic press conference in West Berlin, LaRouche and six of his associates were indicted in Alexandria, Virginia on trumped-up federal charges of tax and mail fraud conspiracy. This action was conducted by the same Soviet-linked, liberal-establishment cabal inside the U.S. Justice Department which illegally deported U.S. citizen Karl Linnas, delivering him without trial to his death in a Soviet jail, and which has acted to undermine Western defense through the infamous "Pentagon raid." This is the same crew, which moved with desperate haste to destroy LaRouche and his political movement.

An earlier attempt had failed miserably, as a Boston federal court was shown documents proving that LaRouche was

the victim of dirty tricks by a powerful group within the U.S. government itself. This time, however, Alexandria federal Judge Albert V. Bryan banned all evidence of U.S. government tampering. On Dec. 16, a jury laced with government employees delivered a "guilty on all counts" verdict against LaRouche. For his "crimes" LaRouche faces up to 65 years in jail, and probable assassination, after sentence is passed down this Jan. 27.

The Soviet news agency TASS was among the first to react to the Alexandria verdict, gloating that "neo-fascist" LaRouche is getting what he deserves!

LaRouche's proposals for restoring freedom and economic justice to Poland exemplify the reasons why LaRouche is so deeply hated by the Soviets and their Western friends inside the liberal establishment. More clearly perhaps than anywhere else, the plight of Poland today rips the mask off smiling liberal darling Mikhail Gorbachov, revealing the inhuman nature of the Soviet Empire and the rotten immorality of Western policies of Soviet appeasement.

Partitioned by Russia, Prussia, and Austria at the end of the 18th century, Poland was briefly restored following World War I, only to be dismembered by Hitler and Stalin in 1939 as part of their infamous "friendship" pact. The United States, Britain, and France stood by and watched as Russian and German troops overran the reborn nation. Nazi occupation policy was to wipe the Polish people off the face of the Earth; by the end of the war 6 million Poles had died in slave labor and concentration camps. The murder of some 4,000 Polish officers by the Russians at Katyn demonstrated, that as far as Poland was concerned, Hitler and Stalin were entirely in agreement. In 1945 the Western powers sold out Poland once again, tolerating the imposition of a Soviet puppet government, and the bloody suppression of the anti-Communist resistance movement, which cost 30,000 lives.

Under the Soviet-style "command" economy, Poland was transformed into a virtual slave-labor camp for the Russian Empire, forced to export steel, ships, and other goods to the Russians at less than the cost of production, while at the same time paying two to three times world market prices for Soviet oil and other imports. When the Polish economy collapsed in 1970, the Western nations obligingly provided billions of dollars of credits and technology, but without demanding an end to Soviet looting. Polish industry was retooled with



Western help to meet the latest requirements of the Soviet war buildup, and the Polish people left with the bill of more than \$30 billion of debt to Western banks! Since 1980, Poland has been put through wave after wave of brutal cuts in living standards, to the point where the population is on the brink of starvation. Cheated out of the fruits of its hard labor, looted, subjected to an inhuman, incompetent bureaucratic system, oppressed by its Quisling government and the omnipresent secret police, and finally deprived of the very necessities of life, the population is set to explode.

But Russian troops are poised to move in and crush the Polish nation once more, as they did to Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The final destruction of Poland, and of the last hopes of oppressed peoples of Eastern Europe for freedom and economic justice, need not happen. If the policies proposed by Lyndon LaRouche are adopted by the United States and the Western nations generally, Poland might enter the 21st century as a free and prosperous nation, part of that precious island of Western civilization upon which the future of billions of people around the world depends.

Poland is more than merely a symbol or test case. For historical and strategic reasons, the future of Western civilization itself is bound up with the fate of that nation and the other oppressed nations of the East bloc. By mobilizing the will and resources to liberate and rebuild those nations, the West regains its moral purpose. Conversely, failing to do so

would doom our civilization to destruction as a consequence of those “structures of sin” to which Pope John Paul II referred in his encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*.

American System principles

The preconditions for Poland’s successful reconstruction are very simple: respect for national sovereignty; an end to looting by the Soviet Union and Western creditors; a moratorium on foreign debt; granting of several tens of billions of dollars in long-term—20-year—credits for acquisition of capital equipment for modernization of agriculture, industry, and infrastructure, with first priority given to Poland’s technology-starved private farms. Under these conditions, and assuming a minimum competence in organizing the recovery process, conditions in Poland could be improved dramatically within a matter of months.

The debt moratorium and halt to Soviet looting are absolutely necessary. For decades now, Poland has been subjected to a policy of “socialist primitive accumulation.” Resources required to maintain the living standards of the population and its productive base, have been channeled instead to export-oriented industries in order to meet the demands of the Soviets, and now also the Western banks. The end result is a physical collapse of the economy, as is happening right now. No amount of “free market magic” or reforms of *perestroika* can stop this accelerating collapse. The bleeding of the economy must end, and urgent aid must be provided to

raise the productive base back up to the breakeven point.

The key to successful reconstruction assistance to Poland is to achieve a catalytic effect. The immediate priority is to upgrade the living standard of the population and repair the bottlenecks and weak points of the economy, where lack of an essential machine, replacement part or transport link causes entire chains of activities to break down. Assistance must range from urgent food aid to such longer-term programs as a massive upgrading of equipment in Polish scientific and industrial research laboratories. In the latter case the essential precondition—a high level of scientific excellence—is already present; mainly the acute lack of resources holds back the pace of scientific research in Poland.

The greatest immediate potential for improvement, and the most critical one for Poland's survival in the near future, is the private agriculture sector, which accounts for some three-fourths of all agricultural land and 80% of agricultural employment. Up to now, this sector has been systematically discriminated against, in favor of a progressive collectivization, transferring ownership to the state, and reducing the private farmer to a mere state employee. The vast majority of farms, still in private hands, have been denied access to necessary tractors, fertilizers, and other goods; horse-drawn plows are commonplace in the Polish landscape. In addition, the private sector has been prevented from organizing efficient distribution and marketing systems, denied necessary infrastructure improvements, and sabotaged by insane bureaucratic regulations.

The solution, in principle, is very simple: Provide the private farmer in Poland with access to the same kind of equipment used routinely on West German farms today; guarantee the right of ownership of his farm to himself and his posterity; guarantee him parity prices for his produce—prices covering the cost of production plus a generous margin for capital improvements; give him access to cheap credit as required. Under these conditions, food production in Poland could be doubled within a few years. This is no exaggeration, but a prediction based on the experience of many countries that applied similar policies, under widely varying conditions, in the past.

But much more could be achieved, if "American System" economic principles, as elaborated by Lyndon LaRouche, are applied in appropriate form to the Polish economy. These principles have nothing to do with the ruinous "free trade" policies which some misguided persons are proposing for Poland. Rather, the key is to provide the people of Poland with the means to achieve rapid technological progress, exercising those creative powers of mind which characterize man as *imago viva Dei*—the living image of God. A reconstruction plan based on LaRouche's economic principles would call for rebuilding the Polish economy on the basis of "21st-century technologies," giving the nation a head start into the era of fusion energy and the colonization of space. That means putting into practice the principles of Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Laborem Exercens*.

What might that process look like? Let us briefly take a look into the future, projecting how Poland might look, in 20 years, if LaRouche's policies were implemented.

Poland in 20 years: a vision for the future

We are in the year 2009. In Poland's industrial heartland, in Silesia, Konin, Tarnobrzeg, Warsaw, Lodz, Gdansk, and in the open-pit coal-mining regions, thick clouds of smoke and dust are no longer to be seen. Gone is the terrible pollution which once made entire regions of the country unfit for human habitation. Poland has left behind the "Age of Coal" and become a world leader in industrial applications of nuclear energy.

Coal is still mined, but instead of being burned as a fuel or exported as a cheap raw material, most of it is transformed by nuclear energy into synthetic natural gas and high quality chemical products. The hero of the story is the high-temperature reactor (HTR), the world's safest and most flexible nuclear energy system, which provides cheap electricity and industrial process heat in the range of 700-1,000° C. Originally developed in Germany and the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s, and built up in Poland on a massive scale with Western help during the 1990s, the HTR will have benefited greatly from Poland's own advanced research into "highly energy-dense processing of materials." Synthetic fuels produced with the help of nuclear energy, including increasing amounts of hydrogen, have made Poland largely independent from foreign oil.

But by 2009, nuclear energy as we knew it back in 1989, is already becoming obsolete. Poland is involved at the forefront of perhaps the most dramatic technological revolution in human history: the transition to a world economy based on controlled nuclear fusion. Excellent work on plasma physics, done at Polish universities since the 1970s (for example S. Kaliski et al. at the Warsaw Institute of Plasma Physics and Laser Microfusion), has contributed significantly to the perfection of fusion-related technologies. These include not only fusion power plants, but also equipment using high-energy plasmas—up to hundreds of millions of degrees—to transform all kinds of materials.

The leading center of fusion technology in Poland is a city which did not even exist in the year 1989, a "science city" similar in conception to those which guaranteed Japan's leading edge in technology in the 1980s and 1990s. Named in honor of the great Polish patriot who fought in the American Revolution, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, this science city is built according to the principles of classical architecture combined with the latest technologies of mass transit and other infrastructure. Kosciuszko City is linked to Warsaw, Krakow, Katowice, Lodz, Wroclaw, and Poznan by a magnetic levitation train network operating at speeds of 500 km per hour. The new city is a polytechnical center, combining advanced scientific research with industrial applications, and is the home of hundreds of medium-sized high-technology industries which popped up like mushrooms in the fertile soil

of scientific breakthroughs and new inventions. Nearly every conceivable domain of science finds its home here, but with a certain historical emphasis on development of fusion plasma, laser, and particle beam technologies for the processing of materials. This domain unites Poland's industrial past with its future in the world's emerging fusion-based economy.

Another area of science and technology was to play a major role in Poland's renaissance: optical biophysics, the mastery of the electromagnetic organization of living processes. Already in the 1980s, some of the pioneering work was done in Polish laboratories, for example at the Copernicus University in Torun and the Military Institute for Aviation Medicine in Warsaw. Early breakthroughs led to the development of new research and medical instruments, able to "tune in" to tissues of the human body, detect disease processes and cure them with pulses of electromagnetic energy. These instruments became the basis, during the 1990s, for a vast industry, even surpassing the scale of the pharmaceutical industries of the 1980s. Poland's early emphasis on this field paid off with a leading role worldwide in development and production of these remarkable new instruments, which not incidentally turned out to be mankind's most important weapons against the holocaust of AIDS and other new diseases breaking out worldwide during 1988-95.

Young, dynamic, and fast-growing, Kosciuszko City is the apotheosis of freedom from the oppressive Soviet-style "dictatorship of the bureaucracy," whose power was broken in 1989-90. The key to success is "American System" economics, featuring the channeling of cheap and plentiful credit for establishment of new productive industries and improvements in industry and infrastructure. Productive activities evolve organically, in freedom; only certain technological priority areas and large projects, mainly in infrastructure, are decided upon, subsidized, or financed by the state. The construction of a new city embodying these principles is a turning point in the renaissance of the whole country.

The real fuel of that renaissance, however, is the spectacular modernization of agriculture carried out in little more than a decade, beginning in the early 1990s. The modernization is achieved nearly overnight, by Poland's private farmers. All that was required was to grant them full economic rights, plentiful cheap credit, parity prices, and access to the entire range of modern agricultural equipment produced in Western Europe. At first, this meant large imports of farm equipment, financed by 20-year, state-guaranteed loans issued simultaneously with the general debt moratorium of 1989. Soon, however, much of that importation was replaced by the explosive growth of Poland's own farm equipment sector, as increasing numbers among the farm population took advantage of the huge market to set up their own small and medium-sized factories, repair, and retail centers. In addition, countless consumer goods industries sprang up. This development was accelerated by import of machine tools and other machinery for light and medium industry, in such a way that the modernization of agriculture was not

constricted by the slower growth of Poland's machine tool sector.

The agricultural revolution, carried out by the farmers themselves, resulted in a most beneficial shift in the cultural and political climate of the country. Already, the availability of good food to the whole population, not merely in barely sufficient quantities but in rich abundance, was a psychological revolution. Finally the age-old burden of chronic peasant backwardness was solved, encrusted pessimism replaced by a belief in technological progress. With the plentiful supply of food and other consumer goods, the black market, with all its brutality and degradation, withered away. The corrupt bureaucracy, whose power depended upon maintaining a state of chronic scarcity in the country, gradually lost its asphyxiating grip on economic life.

Rapid improvement in infrastructure was also key to this process. The looting of the Polish economy by the Soviet Union on the one side, and the International Monetary Fund and Western creditors on the other, had reduced infrastructure to a state of total collapse during the late 1980s. Centerpoint of infrastructure reconstruction was rebuilding of the rail system on Western-gauge track, with emphasis on movement of farm equipment and materials into all major agricultural areas, as well as servicing all population centers. High-speed passenger transport, and increasing amounts of goods transport, are carried by the magnetic levitation train system. In addition, Poland completed the extension and modernization of its inland canal system (with emphasis on the Vistula), which allowed huge savings to the economy. As was proven the case throughout history, infrastructure projects of this type produce "quantum jumps" in productivity with a delay of five years.

The transportation bottleneck was also alleviated by abandoning the insane practice of moving farm produce and other intermediate goods over huge distances, when processing in the same locality where they were produced is much more effective. Thus, emphasis was shifted to organic growth of regional markets, where producers and consumers come into more direct contact, eliminating unnecessary middlemen and unproductive shuffling of goods. Transition from a coal-based to a nuclear-based economy eventually also freed Poland's infrastructure from the massive burden of moving millions of tons of low-quality material every year.

In 2009, the harbors at Gdansk, Gdynia, and Szczecin are busier than ever before, but no longer with export of coal and other raw materials. Now Poland is a major exporter of machines of all types to the developing nations of Africa, Asia, and Ibero-America. Poland's canal system has become a kind of assembly line for transforming its rich stocks of raw materials into high-quality capital goods. The shipbuilding industries have expanded their activities, producing not only ships, but floating chemical factories, desalination plants, and large components for irrigation, city-building, and other infrastructure. Poland is helping to spread its new-found prosperity to a world population of 7 billion persons!

But perhaps the most brilliant and lasting achievement will have been the fundamental breakthroughs in science, made by several Nobel Prize-winning Polish scientists at the beginning of the 21st century. These included a remarkable discovery concerning matter/anti-matter reactions, which provided the key to new propulsion systems for manned exploration of the Solar System beyond Mars.

The discovery recalled two grand traditions of Polish science—the creation of the theory of radioactivity through the work of Marie Skłodowska-Curie, and curiously enough, in the area of pure mathematics, the famous Warsaw/Lwów schools of topology and the theory of functions (Sierpinski, Kuratowski, Banach, Borsuk, Steinhaus, Mazur). This pure mathematics school derived directly from the work of the greatest 19th-century mathematicians Bernhard Riemann and Georg Cantor, on the construction of functions having everywhere dense singularities. The physical significance of these constructions had been lost sight of until Lyndon LaRouche helped put mathematics back on the track, nearly a century later. LaRouche predicted in 1988, on the basis of his own work on physical economy, that the internal geometry of the atomic nucleus must be a Riemann-Beltrami function of negative curvature. Finally, at the turn of the century, Polish physicists confirmed that hypothesis with a series of crucial experiments which opened up an energy source beyond mankind's wildest dreams—and with that, a pathway to the stars!

Laborem Exercens

What we have just sketched is no mere science fiction, but an eminently possible development, if the political preconditions are achieved over the coming years. This or that detail may turn out differently; nevertheless, the science of physical economics prescribes that if Poland is to have a future in the 21st century, this future will assuredly lie in the direction we have indicated.

Take an example. Leaving aside the chronic logistical mismanagement plaguing Poland's industry today, the fact remains that an economy based upon massive use of coal as a fuel is intrinsically inefficient, relative to the world levels required today and in the coming century. The reason for this, as LaRouche demonstrates in more detail in the science of physical economy, is that the energy-flux density of coal power is between 5 and 100 times less than nuclear energy. Related to this, a coal-fired power plant consumes 75,000 times more fuel, in weight, than a nuclear power plant of the same electric output!

Nuclear energy is necessary, not only because it is more efficient, but also because it is the precondition for maintaining a high rate of technological progress, presently denied the nations of Eastern Europe. It is the achievement of high rates of technological progress—not merely large tonnages of production per se, as in the bureaucratic system—which is the goal of economic policy.

Poland's wealth does not lie in its rich reserves of coal and other raw materials, however useful these might be, but

rather in its people and above all in their creative powers of mind. They were meant by God not to be slaves to an evil empire, but to be, in the deepest sense, scientists: to master the lawful composition of the universe, and to exercise increasing domination, through scientific and technological progress, over the forces of nature.

This conception, laid out so beautifully in the encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, is already deeply embedded in Polish history, and underlined by the many Poles who at various times have joined the ranks of the world's leading scientists. It was embodied in the 1773 "Commission for National Education"—the first public education ministry in the history of Europe. And it is alive in the scientific excellence in Poland today, despite many hardships, and in the aspirations of the population for a brighter future.

The conception of Poland's future which the author has presented here, might seem a far-away dream when compared to the harsh realities of Polish life today. But, only the highest ideals define what is truly worth fighting for. If mere pragmatic politics are followed, trying to win small concessions from day to day, Poland will not be saved.

For example, there is much discussion, inside and outside Poland, of the necessity of establishing a so-called "Western-style free market" in the country. Were this to occur without a debt moratorium and an end to the looting of Poland's economy by the Soviets and Western creditors, the result would not be much different than if Poland continued under its present economic system.

The simple truth is, that the "free market" policies associated with the IMF, the "Europe 1992" plan, and GATT are as bad as the Soviet system and ultimately have the same authors. Under the "New Yalta" agreements between the Soviet leadership and leading Western financier interests, Poland is targeted for total destruction by *both sides*. Poland is getting the "Third World treatment," like the scores of nations in Africa and Ibero-America, which are presently being driven into extinction by the so-called "magic of the free market"!

In Hell, an "improvement" means a more efficient method of torture. This is the nature of Gorbachov's *perestroika* and the most other supposedly Western-style "reforms" being peddled nowadays in the international arena. If you wish to escape torture, you have to get out of Hell.

The alternative to the bankrupt Soviet-style bureaucratic system in Poland is not liberal free trade policies, but the package of "American System" economic reforms proposed by Lyndon H. LaRouche. The Soviets and their Western "Trust" friends know this is the only viable alternative, and that is why they are so anxious to remove LaRouche from the scene.

The Satanic system gripping Poland and the other captive nations of Eastern Europe cannot last very much longer. It is rapidly destroying itself. The only question is, whether it will take the human race with it. That is the problem LaRouche addressed in his historic press conference in Berlin.