

Editorial

Lessons of the Soviet strikes

In March 1991, mass unrest broke out in the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands defied a Gorbachov ban on demonstrations, and other tens of thousands of soldiers and police were deployed to contain the protesters. As of this writing, industrial strikes have spread from mining to other sectors across the union, with no end in sight as workers demand relief from their desperate economic conditions.

An uneasy standoff prevails between President Gorbachov and his apparent rival, Russian Federation President Yeltsin. Yet, both men appear ready to unveil variants on a scheme to accept International Monetary Fund dictates which will speed the deadly collapse of the Soviet Union—a state which still possesses one of the world's most formidable nuclear military machines. Both appear to be vying to prove who can better suppress the strikes.

Is it really only a little more than a year ago, that the world looked hopefully toward the peaceful revolutions in Eastern Europe, and many people believed, with well-founded optimism, that Europe stood on the threshold of a new golden age? The peaceful revolutions in Eastern Europe were made by people who took to the streets for the ideal of freedom. But without an economic program, their efforts were bound to be undermined.

At the time, Lyndon LaRouche, the author of the "Productive Triangle" program, warned that Europe would only meet the historic challenge if it broke with the bankrupt economic system of Karl Marx and the equally bankrupt economic system of Adam Smith, and returned to the proven economic theory of Friedrich List. Otherwise, he foresaw, Europe would be plunged into chaos by the dynamic of the two decaying superpowers. LaRouche urged a break with what Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, called the "structures of sin in East and West," collectivist Marxism and liberal capitalism. He called for a third way, an economic policy consistent with the principles of Christian morality. LaRouche and the Schiller Institute's collaborators presented their 200-page study on the European-wide infrastructure program to every Eu-

ropean government—at their own expense.

Unfortunately, instead of setting national priorities for the benefit of all society and directing the relevant credit to be generated, the continental European governments left it to the Anglo-American dominated "free market" to define economic policy for the East. These financial circles prescribed snake-oil remedies oriented toward the short-term profit of Western financial sharks. Instead of building up an internal market, these managers and experts, schooled in social Darwinism, marched in looking for quick markets for Western goods, or to buy up real estate and factories at fire-sale prices.

The resulting economic disaster, aggravated by the Gulf war's impact on energy supplies and now the U.S. demands for tribute to pay for that genocidal adventure, has unleashed social ferment all over Europe, East and West. There is only one peaceful solution to this crisis: implementation of LaRouche's "Triangle." Supporting this policy is also the only way for the United States to redeem itself from the moral debacle of the Gulf war.

Thanks to the efforts of the Schiller Institute and *EIR*'s collaborators and supporters, the report on the Productive Triangle has been printed and circulated in Polish, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian, Croatian, and Russian. In Italy, the business magazine *Notiziario Industriale* dedicated four pages, with maps and graphs, to the program. In Hungary, the magazine of the political prisoners' organization, *Ahon*, ran a long article reporting on a Triangle conference in Budapest co-sponsored by the Schiller Institute. The report is about to appear in Italian and French. A new German paperback version is expected to become a best-seller. *EIR* is preparing a new edition in the language of the most populous "captive nation" of them all: American English.

The Russian strike wave reminds us that this is both a question of relieving human suffering and providing political stability to prevent a conflict that could become a civil war there, and even turn into a new world war. The Triangle must therefore be at the top of everyone's agenda.