

changes in the organization of human activity, consequently reducing the land area necessary to sustain human existence by increasing the power of human labor, are the driver of LaRouche's conception of human history as a self-ordered series of transformations resulting from willfully generated increases in mankind's potential relative population density. Such a function of increase, the product of the human mind's creative capacity for self-improvement, will not ever be developed out of statistical series. That would be to assume that the living somehow arises from the dead. At best, counting things, and ordering arrays of counted objects after they have become countable, can be indicative of the process by which such counted things came into existence, to the extent that the mind is encouraged to think about what is involved.

In the same way, a pile of dead bodies would be effective indicators of the necessary existence of some preceding state of affairs, to a living being of investigative bent.

### **The data we are forced to use**

This ought to function as a caution, and as an answer to those who will want to know, "How do we know your statistics are any good?" They aren't, because they can't be, but they can still be a useful tool. The data employed here have been collected from a variety of sources—international agencies such as the United Nations, International Energy Agency, International Road Federation, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, International Labor Organization, Unesco, among others; the national agencies of the countries

## **The LaRouche plan: 'great projects'**

Over the past 20 years, economist Lyndon LaRouche has promoted a "great projects" development approach for national economic growth on all continents. Since 1976, when he first put himself forward as a candidate for President of the United States, LaRouche has stressed that the only way for the United States to make its way out of deepening economic depression, is to "build itself out"—to once again begin investing in great projects of infrastructure, both at home and abroad. LaRouche and his collaborators have devised infrastructure programs ranging from continent-wide networks of railroads, industrial centers run by nuclear power, and waterways, to the construction of new, modern canal links between the great oceans of the world.

The "great projects" approach is the most efficient way to improve and expand an economy, in many cases taking totally useless land and transforming it into productive territory, as was done by the irrigation of California's Imperial Valley.

These improvements are essential in order to maintain a world population of more than 6 billion persons, growing to 12 billion around the middle of the twenty-first century. They will serve as the basis for transforming and uplifting the economy, making it possible for a growing population to live at standards as high or higher than those in the United States during the decade that the Apollo Project to put man on the Moon was pumping wealth into the U.S. economy. The next step will be the colonization of the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Most important, the great projects will inject optimism and a vision of progress

into a world now dominated by the cultural and scientific pessimism of the environmental hoaxsters.

### **The 'Oasis Plan'**

An example of this approach is the "Oasis Plan" for developing the vast arid lands of the Middle East and North Africa, as indicated in an Aug. 21, 1990 policy paper by LaRouche, "A Peace Plan in the True Interest of Arabs and Israelis."

Speaking out in opposition to the Bush administration's drive for war against Iraq, LaRouche attacked the notion that "political settlements" of differences come first, and then maybe economic development will follow. "We have repeatedly said, and rightly so, that that line of argument is wrong, and even dangerously absurd. The simple reason is, that without a policy of economic development, the Arabs and Israelis have no common basis for political agreement; no common interest."

LaRouche stressed that a combination of "geographic engineering," such as running canals from the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, could create water courses and be combined with nuclear-powered desalination, to provide water, power, and transport for industrial and agricultural growth. These projects, along with nuclear-powered desalination plants at other strategic sites in the arid North African-East Mediterranean region, could create man-made rivers and oases in the desert.

"We could define the proper approach to development of the Middle East, if no persons lived there presently, as if, for example, we were planning the settling of Mars: an uninhabited planet, by aid of artificial environment, and so forth." The provision and distribution of water and power must be organized to develop the average square kilometer of land to be productive at needed levels for different types of land use—pastoral, crop, residential, industrial, and commercial.