

Beijing promotes Grand Design for Eurasian progress

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

On May 7-9, over 460 experts and leading officials from 34 countries gathered in Beijing, China, to participate in an historic International Symposium on Economic Development of the Regions along the New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge. The subject of the symposium was a grand strategy for developing the entire Eurasian landmass, by means of an integrated, transcontinental network of modern transport, energy, water, and communications infrastructure. Beijing's hosting of the conference reflected a major strategic policy thrust of the Chinese government, to promote economic development along the "New Silk Road" formed by the newly established Eurasian Continental Bridge rail lines connecting the Pacific coast of China with the Atlantic coast of Europe.

Among the prominent guest speakers at the conference was Helga Zepp LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute and wife of U.S. Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche—himself the chief proponent, internationally, of the kinds of infrastructure-centered development policies, that were highlighted at the Beijing meeting. Following the symposium, Mrs. Zepp LaRouche was hosted as international leader of the Schiller Institute, at a series of seminars, lectures, and private meetings, including a memorable tour of one of China's most important high-technology projects.

We feature here exclusive coverage of the Euro-Asian Continental Bridge symposium, with texts, maps, and selected excerpts from several of the most notable papers. There is also an article by Mrs. Zepp LaRouche, reporting her personal impressions of the great changes which have occurred in China since she last visited that country, as a young journalist, 25 years ago.

Two policy alternatives

This is material of strategic importance—an importance which is underlined, perversely, by the fact that the major Western press has not published a single word about the Beijing symposium! Studying the materials in this package, the reader may well understand why. As the London-centered financial system reels and



The genie is out of the bottle: The convergence between Lyndon LaRouche's policies, and the Beijing government's drive for a "New Silk Road" development program, caused great consternation among British representatives at the Beijing symposium on the New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge.

lurches at the brink of total disintegration, the fateful choice between only two, alternative policy courses, confronts the world's nations with ever greater urgency: *Either* there will emerge a cooperation among leading powers, to carry out a bankruptcy reorganization of the world monetary and financial system, and rebuild the world economy on the basis of large-scale infrastructure projects; *or* the collapse of the financial system, under conditions of Nazi-like austerity, will plunge humanity into a genocidal "Dark Age," during which the human population would be reduced from its present nearly 6 billion, to 100 million or less.

As Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized, the chance for preventing such a holocaust, rests mainly with the United States, Russia, and China. These three are the only world powers that have an intrinsic common interest, *as well as the ability*, acting in concert, to impose a financial reorganization against the opposition of a still-powerful British Empire.

Helga Zepp LaRouche placed this issue squarely on the table, in her presentation to a spellbound audience at the Beijing symposium. She emphasized Lyndon LaRouche's strategic plan for financial reorganization and establishment of "Hamiltonian national banking" methods, as well as his global economic reconstruction program, which from 1988 on has been centered on the "Productive Triangle" conception: To develop Eurasia by means of an array of "dense infrastructure corridors," combining high-speed rail and magnetic levitation, nuclear power and other modern energy systems, waterways, water management systems, and advanced communications networks, together with health and educa-

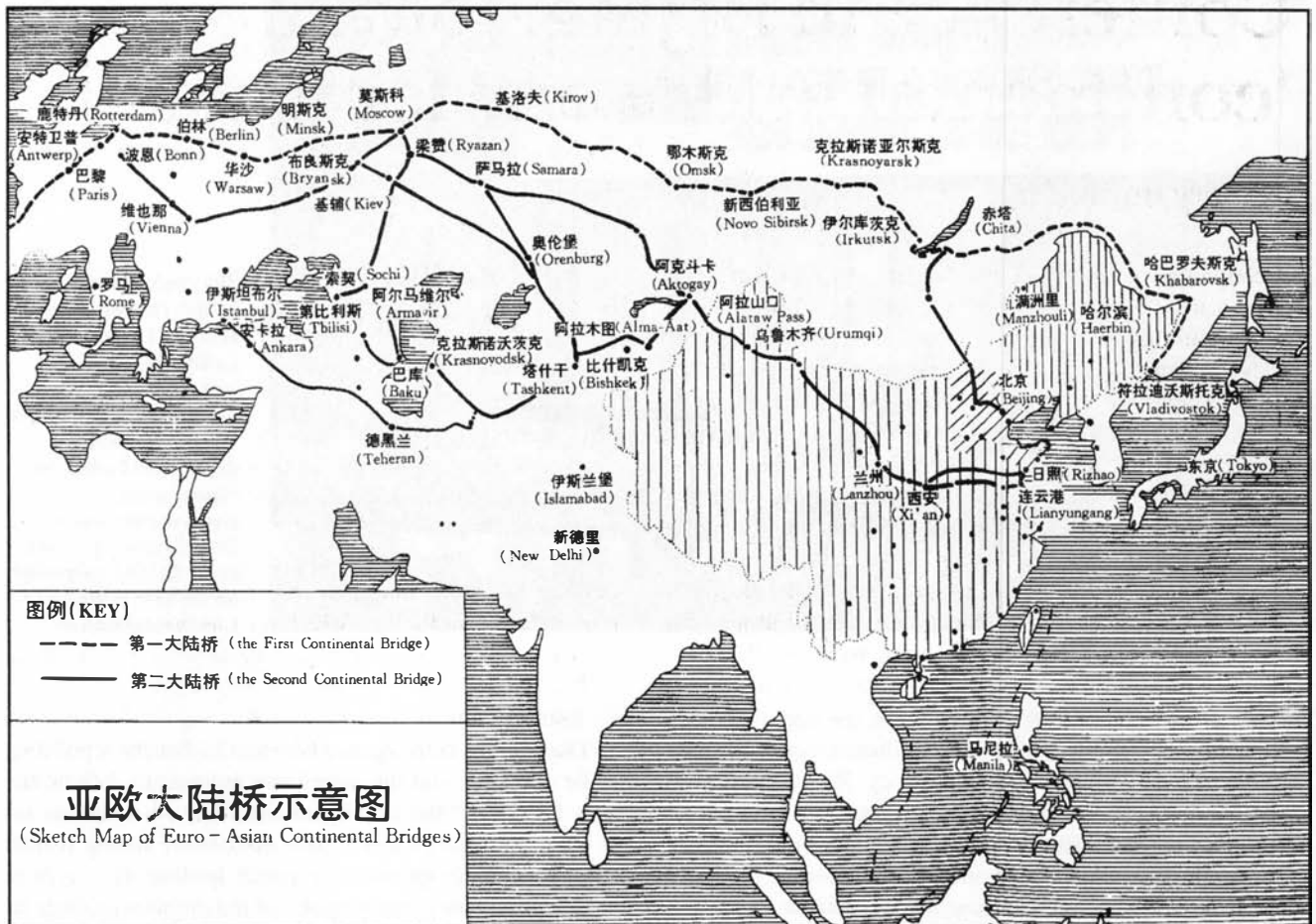
tion infrastructure.

The obvious convergence between LaRouche's policies, on the one side, and the significant momentum behind the "New Silk Road" thrust in China and some other nations, on the other, evidently caused great discomfort among British representatives. In speech after speech, leading officials from China's provinces proudly spoke of the impressive range of infrastructure construction projects, already completed or in progress in the regions along the new Eurasian Continental Bridge. Indeed, large parts of China nowadays present the astonished visitor with the image of a single, gigantic construction site, where railroads, roads, factories, and apartment complexes are springing up overnight. This, of course, is a nightmare for all those British-style racists, who—like the perpetrators of the Club of Rome's "Limits to Growth" hoax—hoped that the specter of industrialization of the "Third World" had been buried once and for all. Indeed, looking at China's "New Silk Road" strategy together with what Helga Zepp LaRouche placed on the table in Beijing, London must be terrified that "the genie is out of the bottle." Hence the thundering silence of the British-influenced international media establishment, on the subject of the recent conference.

The Euro-Asian Bridge symposium revealed some of the strengths, but also some of the important weaknesses, of China's strategic policy.

On the one side, especially since 1993, China has refused to give in to demands for the kinds of radical deregulation and privatization policies, by means of which the friends of Margaret Thatcher and Henry Kissinger have "successfully"

The chief Eurasian Continental Bridge rail lines



Courtesy of Gao Zhengang, Editor, "A Study on the Strategic Significance of the New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge," Jinan, 1996.

destroyed the former Soviet Union and most of the developing nations. The stubborn insistence of China's leadership on maintaining China's economic sovereignty, is the most obvious cause for Sir Leon Brittan's public fit of infantile rage, during the Beijing symposium. Chinese leaders have repeatedly emphasized: With its 1.2 billion population, and an unbroken historical and cultural tradition going back over 4,000 years, China is not going to take orders from anybody.

It is relevant to note, that Lyndon LaRouche's analysis of the collapse function of the world financial system, has been the subject of numerous articles in leading Chinese economic journals. LaRouche's work is being closely studied.

On the other hand, one must ask, how is it possible, that such puffed-up bullies as Sir Leon Brittan—or London's favorite asset, Sir Henry Kissinger—could continue to be received in Beijing as "great friends of China"? Why does Beijing go out of its way to maintain overtly friendly relations with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, whose policies are largely responsible for destroying the nations of

Africa, Ibero-America, the former Soviet Union, and so on? While Beijing insists on maintaining the economic sovereignty of China, it abstains from attacking the supranational institution and policies that are destroying the sovereignty of most other nations. And yet, what could be more dangerous to China's national security, than a potential civil war in Russia, made possible by the continued toleration of the IMF's so-called reform policies? These paradoxes bear on the axiomatics of foreign policy: the axiomatics of Chinese leaders' perception of the workings of the world outside China.

The Chinese government's promotion of the "New Silk Road" strategy for Eurasian development is more than laudable. It is a crucial contribution to the potential for mankind to survive the present crisis. However, the "New Silk Road" will not work, unless the deeper axiomatic issues are resolved—issues which bear upon the prospects for the United States, Russia, China, and other countries, which wish true development as sovereign nations, to establish a common basis for action in the immediate period ahead.