

# Russia: Only hope for survival is Eurasian land-bridge collaboration

by Rachel Douglas

During 1996, one of the world's great powers, Russia, took a plunge downwards, the parameters of which, and possibilities for its reversal, may be focussed through the glass of Lyndon LaRouche's Presidential campaign statements, his ongoing interaction with the Russian intelligentsia, and his written interventions, aimed to revise disastrous United States policies toward Russia and the rest of the former Soviet bloc.

In a March 16 campaign address in Los Angeles, excerpted for broadcast on CBS-TV on April 18, LaRouche discussed "Foreign Policy as You've Never Heard It Before." Here, he located Russia as one of the few sovereign powers, capable of acting, in concert with the others, to defy and replace the London-dominated global financial oligarchy:

"What are we going to do about the world? . . . You've got to deal with the world; which means the President of the United States, must call together representatives of a number of powers, to enact, in various parts of the world, similar measures to those he's enacting in the United States. He must scrap existing trade agreements and tariff agreements, and set up a new series of agreements which are based on protectionism for both the U.S. recovery, and allowing other nations to do the same thing. . . .

"What are the powers we deal with? Well, first of all, the largest power we have to deal with, is called the British Empire. . . . Now that empire, which the British effectively control, except for a few dissident nations that don't like it, that empire represents about one-fifth of the world's land area . . . about 30% of the world's population. It controls 48-50% of the world's financial turnover, including the \$3.5 trillion a day derivatives turnover. It controls the majority of the world's international trade in what are called strategic metals, such as the metals that are required for most industry. It controls the majority of the international trade in petroleum. . . .

"Now, there are some other powers on this planet. There are the Russians. Now, the Russians have never had a nation-state. *Never*. They went directly from empire—from Tatar domination as satrapies, to an empire, to communism, without passing 'Go' or collecting \$200. They have now been put into bankruptcy, because the British, supported by George Bush, in 1989, said, 'Well, the Russians are down on the ground. Now we're going to make sure that none of the nations of the former Soviet empire *ever rise again*. We are going to *destroy* them, by reform.' A mass-murderous reform. . . .

"So, Russia has never had nation-state status. But they represent the *potential* of a nation-state, which more and more people in the place would like to have, and they represent power; despite their broken condition. So you have to deal with them as a primary-tier world-power.

"Mainland China is also a world-power, a first-tier world power. And there are no other first-tier world powers on the surface of this planet. The United States, the British Empire, Russia, and China."

## A U.S., Russia, China alliance

In April, LaRouche visited Moscow for, among other events, an April 24 round table, "Russia, the United States, and the Global Financial Crisis," sponsored by the Institute for Socio-Political Research (ISPI) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Free Economic Society of Russia, and the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture (Moscow). Co-chairmen were Academician Leonid Abalkin, who heads the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences and is a leader of the Free Economic Society, and Academician Gennadi Osipov, the director of ISPI.

In his presentation, LaRouche reviewed the on-rushing financial and economic breakdown crisis, "from the standpoint of approximately 60 years of U.S.-Russian relations." He concluded:

"Therefore you have a system, which is not facing a future crisis, but a system which is presently involved in a *global breakdown crisis*. . . .

"From the standpoint of the United States, our law and tradition enable us to cope with this problem domestically. The President has the combination of emergency law powers and Constitutional powers, to solve the internal part of this crisis. . . .

"But in an interconnected world, this requires the United States to call together other powers, to set up corresponding international monetary reforms. There are only four world powers on this planet: there's the United States; there's the British Empire (not the United Kingdom—that's a joke; the British Empire), which will be the major opponent of any such change; there is, third, Russia—even despite Russia's condition at present, Russia is a world power, and at least the current President of the United States recognizes that fact; China is also a world power. There are no other world powers.



*Lyndon LaRouche (center) speaks in Moscow, April 24, 1996, at a round table on the theme "Russia, the United States, and the Global Financial Crisis," held at the Free Economic Society.*

"Therefore, Russia has a very crucial role to play in this process. . . . The combination of the United States and Russia, now as in 1945, with the cooperation of China and with the cooperation of other, lesser powers, who require the benefit of the same kind of development—we can change the course of world history, and get out of this economic mess.

"Now, the reason this possibly may occur, is because of the so-called force of Reason. None of us have any alternative."

Academician Abalkin, who in introductory remarks had welcomed the opportunity to hear from LaRouche, "with his original ideas and approaches," concluded the session with an appeal to its participants, "to awaken public opinion and draw the attention of political forces to the problems Mr. LaRouche has posed, and to the discussion that unfolded around them. I think that we must break through the wall of silence."

On May 21, the Moscow newspaper *Finansovyye Izvestia* reported on the round table with LaRouche, under the headline, "American Economist Predicts a Global Crisis of Capitalism." In November, a Russian-language transcript of the event (which appeared in English in *EIR*, May 31) was released by ISPI.

### **Collision with IMF**

LaRouche reported back on his Moscow visit, in a May 16 lecture in Washington, D.C., excerpted for broadcast on

Fox-TV June 2, as a Presidential campaign statement:

"You have terrible conditions in Russia. Now, these conditions were *intentional*. There were no 'mistakes' made in Russia by Thatcher, Mitterrand, and Bush. They were determined to destroy Russia and its people, with a kind of worse-than-Morgenthau Plan, so that part of the world that had formerly been eastern Europe or the Soviet Union, *would never come back again*. It would be depopulated.

"The Russians would not be allowed to have advanced industries; they would export natural gas and petroleum, and strategic minerals, at low prices, to the London market. They would not be allowed to have industry. Their scientific establishment would be taken down and destroyed. The birth rate would be dropped. The population would be more than halved.

"The country is on the verge of an explosion. They have only one option, and that is to get rid of the IMF. The United States says, 'No. We are *not* going to get rid of the IMF. We're not ready for that. We are going to support the IMF conditionalities. But, we're going to tell the IMF to take it easy on the Russians, and give them a few loans.' This is a collision course!"

### **Russia has lost its sovereignty**

Boris Yeltsin won reelection as President of Russia in the June-July elections, but destroyed his health—and the finances of the Russian state—in the process. To pay wage

arrears and fund other concessions to potential voters in the pre-election period, the Russian government borrowed the equivalent of \$28 billion from Moscow's new commercial banks, at triple-digit interest rates. A new non-payments crisis, for wages and goods deliveries, engulfed the country in the summer and into the fall, setting the stage for a wave of strikes. LaRouche took stock of Russia's rapidly deteriorating position and capabilities, in a July 27 presentation to a Schiller Institute seminar for representatives from eastern and western European nations, held in Oberwesel, Germany:

"The American people believe—as the people of Germany do not believe, as the people of France do not believe, except for psychotics, as the people of western Europe, as the people of Russia do not believe—they do not believe that Germans, French, Russians, and so forth can determine the policies of their nation. The recent Russian election was an affirmation of the fact that the Russian people do not believe that Russians can determine the policy in Russia, but know that Russia can only have as government a government by compradors, that is, leaders who have sold out to become agents of foreign occupying powers. . . .

"So therefore, in Russia, *as in every other country in Europe*, those of you who have inside knowledge of these countries know: There is no perception that these countries have any sovereignty."

*EIR* of Nov. 29 carried LaRouche's major essay on policy for, and toward, Russia, "Russia's Relation to Universal History." In the introduction, LaRouche stated:

"A so-called 'Reform' policy, was jointly imposed upon post-Soviet Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, by Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the man she has described as her dupe, U.S. ex-President Sir George Bush. That 'Reform' policy, not reversed under U.S. President Clinton, has driven Russia presently to existential extremes, at which some sort of explosion is imminent. 'Explosion' does not signify 'global thermonuclear war,' but the ignition, and spread of chaos, out from Russia, to engulf much of the planet. It appears, that official diplomatic Washington is more concerned with clinging to the appearance of defending a failed British-designed 'Reform' policy, than replacing London's and the U.S. Republican Party's bankrupt policy with a sane American one.

"This policy-issue can not be approached competently within the limits of the Russia questions themselves. The same economic situation in Russia which is the driving force of the explosive social crisis in the region of the former Soviet Union, is an integral feature of an ongoing, currently accelerating, global, finance-driven economic collapse, the greatest financial and economic crisis in the modern history of this planet. Not only is the dynamic of the Russia crisis, a product, and reflection of that presently accelerating global financial and economic collapse; the exhaustion of the past five years' London-centered looting of the former Warsaw Pact region, is an important, contributing feature of the timing and ferocity

of the planetary financial collapse."

LaRouche reminded his audience that Russia's greatest strength is the capabilities of its scientists, tempered by their more or less explicit "dissidence" during the Soviet period; this is "the leading edge of cultural achievement bequeathed from Soviet society, and Russia before it, to Russia and the world today," that "presently living experience within the culture of Russia today, to which the people of Russia can turn for a comprehensible 'model' of how a presently bankrupted economy of Russia may be rebuilt. Here, in this facet of Soviet experience, the people of Russia can find that heritage, within their society, which best expresses that within them which is truly human, that which must be fostered, if human nature is to be summoned efficiently to rescue Russia from its present nightmare."

### **Russia's future tied to Eurasia**

In a Dec. 11 radio interview with "EIR Talks," given just before the winter conference of the Schiller Institute in Germany, LaRouche cautioned that Russia's internal crisis can be neither evaluated, nor solved, separately from the overall development of Eurasia:

"What's important is that Russia is now engaged, visibly more so, like [Foreign Minister Yevgeni] Primakov's activities, for example . . . in forming a coalition of forces including Russia, India, China, also involving Pakistan, with a prominent role of Iran, which the United States doesn't want to talk to—silly United States! . . .

"And, therefore, this is all built around our policy for developing a network of railway corridor-centered development regions throughout Eurasia. This is something to which the British are absolutely, fiercely opposed. . . .

"And, that's the *only* thing one should discuss in respect to Russia. All the current internal fiddle-faddle . . .—*forget it!* It doesn't mean anything.

"The only thing that meant anything in Russia, in terms of domestic and foreign economic policy, beforehand, was the Third Force. And, with the aid of the International Republican Institute of Bush and Kissinger and Company, they managed to run manipulations through [Yuri] Skokov, and, now, the game they played with Gen. [Aleksandr] Lebed, to destroy the Third Force. As a result, there is no force in Russia in a well-organized, prominent position (even though there are plenty of Russians behind the scenes who are still there), which is prepared to do anything competent about the Russian economic policy. . . .

"But, in the meantime, the one thing the United States should latch on to—apart from people in Washington coming to their senses and saying, 'An end to the crazy talk about "democracy" and "reform"' (shooting a Parliament is not a very democratic act)—is this coalition, this emerging coalition: China, now India, Russia, Iran, and, now, Pakistan. That's the key thing to look at, and that's where Russia is playing a significant role."