

Twenty Years Later

This paper by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. was presented on his behalf to a seminar in Brazil on April 2, sponsored by the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement.

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It is now twenty years since British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government launched war against Argentina, and nearly twenty years since the Mexico crisis of August that same year.¹ Those were troubled, but happier times. Today, all but a few of the nations of Central and South America are clinging to nothing more than the mere shards of a broken, lost, former sovereignty. Today, the triumphalist, but rapidly sinking Anglo-American financial empire, lurches into the pit it has dug for itself. That imperial interest holds its victims tightly to its chest, while master and slave alike plunge, amid professions of their current unity, toward the prospect of a common doom.

In such moments in the grand sweep of history, it becomes urgent, as now, that we seize history within the grip of our optimism. The greatest tragedians and historians of European civilization have understood that principle of efficient optimism, as Saint Jeanne d'Arc serves as the stunning example in her triumph over her tortured death at the hands of the English, for us today.

The greatest folly of the recent generations of European civilization, has been the delusion, that the habits of governments and popular opinion were the most appropriate guide to handling the affairs of our people and their nations. Such was the popular opinion, called *vox populi*, of ancient imperial Rome. No great nation can be destroyed except through aid of the folly of its own popular opinion, as imperial Rome destroyed itself, by sitting, as spectators, in the arena.

When those forces of history, which rule our Solar System, grow tired of the foolish popular opinion of a wastrel civilization, those forces seize the instrument of popular opinion, to impel a foolish people to remove their pathetic, popular habits from the stage. In such crises, there comes a moment which can be described as a culture's last chance. That moment is now.

Most simply, for nearly all of us, in the Americas, the inauguration of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt came as a

1. In 1982, Mexico's President José López Portillo rejected International Monetary Fund austerity conditionalities and nationalized the banks.

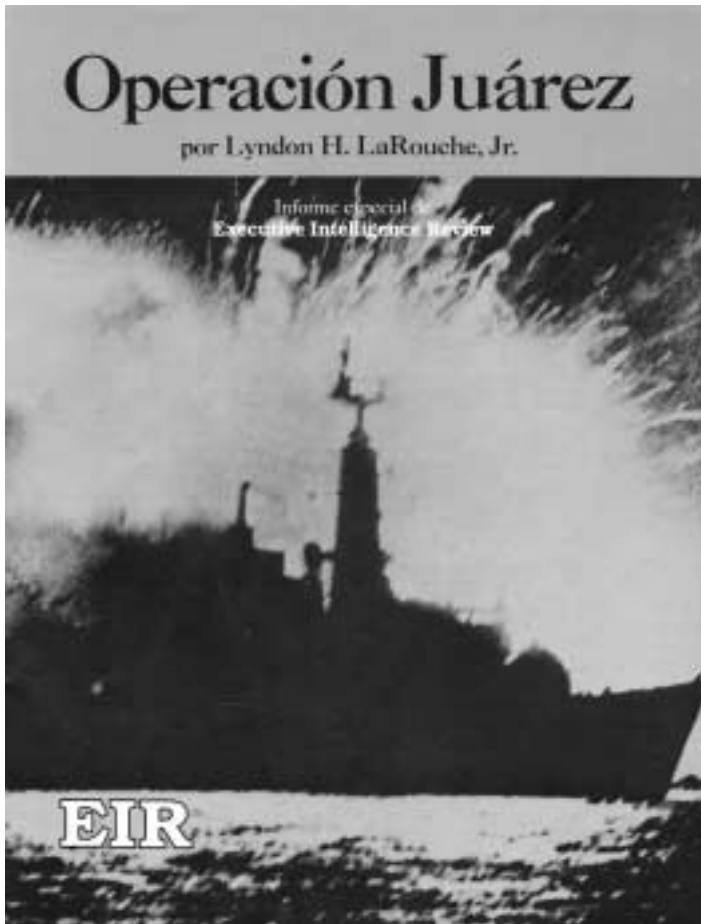
great blessing. That blessing lasted for twelve years; it bequeathed to us in the Americas as a whole, as in Western Europe, the pervasively unjust, but otherwise beneficial monetary and economic policies of the original Bretton Woods conference. Then, for about thirty-five years, following the great crises of the 1960-1965 interval, the U.S.A. and Western Europe became, increasingly, insane in their economic and other policies. The lunacy of the U.S. Nixon Administration's mid-August 1971 sinking of the successful original Bretton Woods system, sent most of the world careening, at a generally accelerating rate, downward, toward the monetary-financial and economic catastrophe which grips the world as a whole today.

For Central and South America, the crises of 1982 were a turning-point, beyond which the rate of ruin has accelerated, up to the present time.

Yet, today, the governments of nations react to the onrushing disintegration of the world's rotted-out monetary-financial system, like passengers clinging hysterically to the anchor of a doomed, sinking *Titanic*, shrieking: "We must stay with the ship!"

How are we to retrieve an efficient quality of optimism from such a situation? It is in precisely moments which are more or less as troubled as these times, that nations have risen, out of the past, from decadence to the sublime. Such beneficial changes do not come as products of popular opinion. They are delivered from the hands of exceptional leaders who inspire their fellows with a vision of an achievable hope of that which could be wrought by that people's own hands. It is such a voice of leadership, for such a time, which we must join to put forward in the very moment of onrushing forces of doom.

The worse, the social and other effects of the presently onrushing collapse of the present world system, the clearer it should be, that, without a change from our people's past habits, there is no hope, during the immediate foreseeable future, for that people, or their nations. So, we should remember, that ancient Athens murdered Socrates, which the prosecutors insisted was done to defend the reputations of the gods; so, those who defended such gods in such a manner, brought upon Greece a catastrophe from which it has yet to recover



LaRouche's policy paper "Operation Juárez" was published in 1982, with a plan for Ibero-American economic integration. On the cover is the sinking of the Argentine battleship Belgrano, by the British, during the Malvinas War of that year.

the former glory which the foolish political leaders from the Golden Age had already wasted, to the present day. The same or a worse kind of fate awaits those who serve the suicidal policies of the presently reigning Anglo-American financier-oligarchical interest. Go with them, and you go down with the sinking ship they command.

Look at the folly of those oligarchs, and let your fears inspire you with hope.

Can Ancient Rome Be Revived?

The United States today is dominated, if not entirely, by beliefs and practices of government which are, in large degree, an ugly parody of the follies of the self-doomed ancient Roman Empire. I refer to the so-called utopian military-strategic doctrines of such aberrant creatures as former U.S. National Security Advisors Henry A. Kissinger and H.G. Wells follower Zbigniew Brzezinski, and to Samuel P. Huntington and his confederate, British Arab Bureau intelligence officer Bernard Lewis. Look at the military strategy of these madmen. Recognize that military policy as a reflection of their

politics and economics in general.

The present military policies of the U.S.A., are expressed in the U.S. de facto support for the Sharon who has copied, fully wittingly, the practices of Warsaw Ghetto butcher, Nazi police General Jürgen Stroop, against the Palestinians, and the intent to spread war throughout this planet, for an extended time, without presenting publicly a shred of proof against the targets. Those policies, as described by their advocates, express a current U.S. military-strategic policy which is a direct copy of the model of the Waffen-SS development under Hitler, of Napoleon Bonaparte's imitations of Caesar, and the evil that was the Roman Empire's legions earlier. Briefly, therefore, these utopian oligarchs and their legionnaires have sought to turn back the clock of history to a time, in the middle of the Fourteenth Century, when the world population was composed of a few hundred millions living in chiefly miserable conditions. They are committed to eradicating those institutions of the modern sovereign nation-state, and its characteristic economy, on which all demographic improvements in the general human condition had depended prior to the unfortunate Richard Nixon's 1966-1968 campaign for the U.S. Presidency.

In fact, these utopians might overshoot that mark, and return to an even earlier level of culture than that of Europe's Fourteenth-Century New Dark Age; they might succeed in reviving the Stone Age.

Therefore, when those and related facts are taken into account, it should be clear to any rational and literate person, that it would be a great boon to all humanity, if we could return to the kinds of economic and social-welfare policies which still prevailed in the Americas and Western Europe during the time John F. Kennedy was the U.S. President, and to military-strategic policies of a quality of West Point tradition which General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur typified, prior to his firing by the unfortunate President Harry Truman. Let us return to modern civilization, and put the ancient dark ages of mankind behind us.

There are some crucial things which need to be added to the best features of the policies of President Franklin Roosevelt, and of the good patriots of Central and South America from earlier times. I have written and spoken of those added requirements in earlier locations. It were nonetheless sufficient, that we recognize that the policies of the 1933-1963 fight against depression and for economic and social progress are a model of the general changes in policy, which must be made today, to escape from the doom now inhering in the recent decades march backwards toward the Middle Ages, or earlier.

Let us build our optimism for change, on the foundation of an experience with which we are familiar, prior to 1982, and also prior to 1965.