
German Elections

Helga Zepp-LaRouche: 'I Know What To Do!'

by Ortrun Cramer

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo), the "LaRouche party" in Germany, issued a call in January 2002, to the leading candidates for Chancellor in the Sept. 22 election, Social Democrat and incumbent Gerhard Schröder and Christian Democrat Edmund Stoiber, to debate her on the strategic issues that will determine the future of the country: 1) the ongoing disintegration of the world financial and monetary system; 2) the push by the utopians in the Bush Administration, for a "Clash of Civilizations"; and 3) the perspective of developing the Eurasian Land-Bridge as a concrete way out of the world economic depression.

Zepp-LaRouche is not only the top candidate of BüSo, she is also leading the slate of candidates in the city-state of Berlin, and is running as a direct candidate in Berlin's central district. With her, there are about 150 candidates on BüSo slates in 8 of the 16 states—representing about two-thirds of the electorate—and 45 direct candidates across the country. The campaign has been so energetic and determined, that some of the key points outlined by Zepp-LaRouche are being taken up by the other parties, even if no one has had the courage to publicly debate her.

To tease and provoke the established politicians even more, the BüSo produced a poster with Zepp-LaRouche's picture, and the words: "Financial Crash, Danger of War: I Know What To Do!"

Another provocative intervention was BüSo's national campaign TV spot, 90 seconds long, which was broadcast four times. Zepp-LaRouche rejected President Bush's drive for a war against Iraq, as a way to deflect attention from the ongoing financial and monetary crash, worse than in 1929. She outlined the Eurasian Land-Bridge as a "perspective for the future and a vision for the youth."

Effective Campaigning

Campaign events by the BüSo dispensed with the traditional format of an election meeting: Instead, a candidate or party representative would present the strategic situation, explain what political steps the candidate or the party will take, once in office, and then engage an active, personal dialogue with the audience. This is contrary to what all other

parties, especially the "big" parties, now present to the voters: entertainment spectacles, which are designed not by politicians, but by public relations specialists, and addressed to a virtual TV audience, rather than to real people confronting the candidate or party. It is a sign of the shift in public awareness, that the BüSo events in this campaign were very well attended, and the number of people attending grew throughout the campaign. In the last week of the campaign, hundreds attended meetings addressed by Zepp-LaRouche, in Bielefeld, Cologne, Berlin, Dresden, Munich, and Frankfurt.

Several other public meetings were of special importance. For several weeks in the Summer, Amelia Boynton Robinson, a 60-year veteran of the American civil rights movement, joined Zepp-LaRouche's campaign. In early August, Virginia U.S. Senate candidate Nancy Spannaus, a LaRouche Democrat, held a joint press conference with Zepp-LaRouche in Berlin. A campaign seminar on the Eurasian Land-Bridge, held in Dresden, was addressed by senior political representatives from the Czech Republic and Poland, together with Zepp-LaRouche.

One other flank that the BüSo took up was to address the Turkish population living in Germany. Of the 2.7 million Turks in Germany, almost 500,000, have become German citizens and thus have the right to vote. Zepp-LaRouche addressed them with a bilingual leaflet, "The New Silk Road Is Good for Germany, and for Turkey."

Financial Crises and Devastating Floods

Several times during the campaign, "politics as usual" was shaken up by catastrophes: First, at the end of July, there was the danger of the meltdown of the world financial system, following the bursting of the "New Economy" stock market bubble, and a collapse of the telecom sector worldwide. It was not possible to cover up this crisis in the usual way, and the BüSo's response was to immediately publish a four-page election broadside on how to reorganize the real economy, with the Eurasian Land-Bridge. None of the other parties have addressed the issue of the global financial crash, up to the present day. Nevertheless, there were some useful proposals brought forth, such as one for a national job-creation program, financed through the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Reconstruction Finance Agency), which presented by an independent commission appointed by the Schröder government and headed by Volkswagen director Peter Hartz.

Then, Germany—East Germany in particular—was hit by the worst flooding in several hundred years, which devastated lands, roads, railways, bridges, public buildings, and houses. There is still no full evaluation of the total amount of damage, but first estimations are that it will be in the order of \$15 billion in the state of Saxony alone—money that simply cannot be provided in the framework of today's financial system, not to mention the limitations on state expenditures set by the European Union's Maastricht criteria.



A Berlin campaign rally of Helga Zepp-LaRouche's party, the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo), warns a Berlin daily to stop its slanders and attacks which "help the warmongers." Zepp-LaRouche, heading the national slate and running in Berlin, makes clear that she knows "what to do" to stop the plunge toward Mideast war, and build out of the onrushing economic depression, unlike her competition.

The economic situation in the eastern German states, of which Saxony is one, is grave, given the effects of the "free market reforms" after the collapse of the communist regime in 1989. Basically all industry has stopped, agriculture has been dismantled, and many research facilities have been closed down. The result is disproportionately high unemployment in eastern Germany, with no perspective for youth, in particular. Zepp-LaRouche had already earlier initiated a "Discussion Forum East," to show the real economic alternative, and encourage citizens to again become a politically active force for change, as they were during the fall of the communist regime 12 years ago. The BüSo had prepared a broadside, "How To Overcome the Injustices in the East of Germany," which was distributed primarily, though not exclusively, in the eastern states.

Now, faced with the devastation brought about by the flood, which in some areas could only be compared to the devastation caused by the Allied bombing during World War II, politicians had to act. Chancellor Schröder demanded a national reconstruction effort, no matter what the Maastricht criteria allow. Candidate Stoiber followed, if far more more cautiously, and leaving out the Maastricht question.

The BüSo circulated two major statements on how to deal with the effects of the flood: The first was by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, calling for the measures proposed by German economist Dr. Wilhelm Lautenbach, in 1931, for state credit to fund major infrastructure projects to overcome national emergencies, such as natural catastrophes. This subject was

elaborated in a national leaflet. Had the proposals by Lautenbach been put into practice in 1931, Zepp-LaRouche said, Hitler would never have come to power in Germany; in the same way, to put such proposals into practice now, could prevent a political disaster, not only in Germany, but globally.

Finally, in the early days of September, when the utopian war party in the Bush Administration escalated its push for a military attack on Iraq, Chancellor Schröder opposed these plans publicly, and ruled out any German participation in the war plan. The same position was taken by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, the leading candidate of the Green party. Again, the BüSo expressed itself more clearly than any of the other parties. In a live national TV broadcast on the "small" parties, aired on Sept. 16, BüSo Deputy Chairman Hartmut Cramer forcefully refuted the war hype by the Bush Administration,

warning that this could lead to a "Clash of Civilizations" and World War III.

On Sept. 13, Zepp-LaRouche issued another national leaflet, again taking up the words from her election poster: "Financial crash and war danger: I know what to do!" She wrote: "The world and Germany are threatened by two acute existential dangers: First, the war against Iraq, as planned by the Bush Administration, would lead to an endless 'war of civilizations.' And second, we find ourselves in the end phase of the collapse of the world financial system, which will throw the real economy into a maelstrom of a new depression much worse than in the 1930s." She stressed, again, the need to have a dialogue of cultures, rather than a war of civilizations, and concludes, that without economic development, there can be no peace. "Chancellor Schröder is right with his rejection of the war, but in economic policies, he does not go far enough, even by approximation. Therefore, Germany needs a different force in the Bundestag, which corrects what Schröder lacks, namely the perspective for overcoming the financial-economic systemic crisis. The BüSo represents exactly that—with our program for a new world financial system ('New Bretton Woods') and the Eurasian Land-Bridge, as the basis for the reconstruction of the world economy. We must build peace, today, against a perpetual war of civilizations. Instead of war: Peace through development. Give me and the BüSo your confidence. It is about war or peace, about a collapse into chaos or a new, just, world economic order. I know what has to be done!"