

The Scientific Roots Of the American System

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



Benjamin Franklin in his laboratory. "Phil Valenti's contribution," LaRouche writes, "will help to open the reader's eyes and mind to the profundity of the concerns, respecting physical science and other matters, which informed the genius expressed by Franklin and others in their creation of our Constitutional republic."

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The attached report on the scientific influence of Gottfried Leibniz in shaping the American System of political-economy, should be received as a timely contribution toward continuing the great work of our recently deceased collaborator, professional historian H. Graham Lowry's *How the Nation Was Won*.

As the new Presidential election-campaign now goes into full swing, our nation faces a period of sudden and cataclysmic change. It is a time when "fix-it" responses to problems will assuredly fail. Only profound changes in adopted principles of government and economy could get our republic, and the world at large safely through the mightily turbulent, now ongoing general economic collapse of the world's present monetary-financial system. In other words, this is a time when success requires dumping those widely accepted general assumptions which have led our nation, over about forty years, into the permanent collapse of the presently established world monetary-financial system.

In such a time of crisis as this, we must re-examine the fundamental principles on which our republic was premised. It is not for nothing that, despite this crisis, we have still the world's greatest, most successful Constitution, the only one which has lasted as long as ours. The problem is, that, somewhere between the crafting of that Federal Constitution and the present time, something has come in between our practice and the principles upon which our success was originally founded. This is the occasion to reflect on the fundamental principles which informed our founders, then led by the internationally renowned scientist and statesman Benjamin Franklin, in adopting the great principles on which all of our achievements since have depended.

The following report, by scholar Phil Valenti, touches upon the education of Franklin by leading men who played, with figures such as Massachusetts' Cotton Mather, a key part in educating Franklin himself. In this case, the international network of scientists associated with Pennsylvania's James Logan. Valenti's report affords the reader access to the depth of scientific thinking which constituted the underpinnings of the world-shaking genius expressed by the founders of our republic. That happens to overlap precisely those principles which underlie the crucial features of my draft Democratic Platform as presented first to the recent National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts.

Our republic was not something as trivial as a mere contract slapped together by crudely practical men cast upon the shores and forests of our primitive landscape. The republic, and its Constitution were composed by men who embodied the distilled expression of the greatest and most profound thought by all European civilization since the Athens of Solon, the Athens of the time prior to the folly of the Peloponnesian War. The deep issues of principle which have been the center of the controversy between freedom and serfdom or slavery since those ancient times, are reflected

as digested wisdom which the best intellects among our founders greatly prized, and brought to bear in creating the greatest Constitution yet to appear on this planet up to this time.

In every great crisis of a sort in which the continued existence of our freedom is once again imperilled, as during the 1933-1945 interval, the survival of our republic has required leaders who do return to the deeper principles which our present-day "practical" men and women tend to shrug off as "impractical," or simply irrelevant to the challenge at hand. The latter attitude, were it to prevail, could now be fatal for our republic's continued existence, even during the relatively short time ahead.

In my crafting of the draft Platform, I have outlined the historical standpoint from which our present national situation must be viewed, if we are to recognize the forces with which we must come to grips now. On that account, Phil Valenti's contribution will help to open the reader's eyes and mind to the profundity of the concerns, respecting physical science and other matters, which informed the genius expressed by Franklin and others in their creation of our Constitutional republic.

The Leibniz Revolution in America, 1727-1752

by Philip Valenti

What Lyndon LaRouche terms "the pagan worship of Isaac Newton," was established as the official cult doctrine of the budding British Empire by no later than 1727. The death of the decrepit 85-year-old Newton that year was followed by a ritual deification, with the republication of his holy writ in the third edition of the *Principia Mathematica*, complete with an absurdly flattering portrait of the author on the frontispiece.

In fact, the Newtonian dogma imposed then, contained all the axioms essential to the creation of an evil Empire at any time and place, most emphatically today. The Newtonian world-view is best calculated to produce masses of self-shackled, culturally pessimistic mental slaves, the properly submissive human cattle herded and culled by a ruling elite of property and wealth.

This is why the successful American revolution against the British Empire needs must have been preceded by the passionate rejection of Newtonianism by the intellectual leaders of the North American colonies, especially among the youth, as these leaders embraced the cause of the greatest political and philosophical adversary of British liberalism, the German universal genius Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716).¹ More than this, it was the Americans' bold challenge

to Newtonian orthodoxy, which strengthened the resistance to the British-imposed intellectual dictatorship over continental Europe at a crucial point, inspiring the work of Abraham Gotthelf Kästner (1719-1800) and his collaborators and students, and leading to the revolutionary breakthroughs of Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855).

As new historical researches confirm, it was the debate and dialogue over Leibniz's ideas among the circles of Kästner, with the leading anti-Newtonian American intellectuals of the day—James Logan (1674-1751) and Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) of Philadelphia, and Cadwallader Colden (1688-1776) of New York—which set America on its course of independence, and averted a threatened global Newtonian Dark Age.

The Newtonian Schema

The precepts of the Newtonian slave dogma can be summarized as follows, in terms that should be familiar to all victims of modern university education:

1. The phenomena of Nature must be explained mechani-

1. See also Philip Valenti, "The Anti-Newtonian Roots of the American Revolution," *EIR*, Dec. 1, 1995.