

Editorial

The Rebirth of 1989

There is perhaps no more inspiring moment of the 20th Century than that of the Fall of 1989, when the unarmed people of eastern Germany, oppressed by 55 years of dictatorship, decided to stand up against the Communist regime, and demand justice. From just a few demonstrators with candles in front of the Nikolai Church in Leipzig, to finally hundreds of thousands in Leipzig successfully facing down the East German military, a revolutionary process took place. The people, and their determination to fight for dignity and a future, prevailed.

But, as Helga Zepp-LaRouche points out in the leaflet we print at the opening of this issue, that revolution was in fact betrayed. As Communism fell, predatory free-market capitalism was brought in. People lost their jobs, and their hope once again.

As the world depression has set in increasingly deeply over the past years, the German population, especially in the eastern part, has once again begun to reach the psychological and political breaking point. They don't buy the myth of a recovery, and they've had enough. Sensing this reality, brought on by the collapse of the post-Bretton Woods System launched in 1971, Helga LaRouche called to relaunch the Monday demonstrations which led to the 1989 revolution. After a mere four weeks, the process has already begun to take off, with other institutions, including some of those who started the original 1989 demonstrations, beginning to call for the revival of the process. In an interview Aug. 5, Christian Fuehrer, a priest at the Leipzig Nikolai Church where the first Monday rallies started in '89, said that "we need the second part of the peaceful revolution, which is still not realized—namely, to restore the inner peace inside Germany."

Equally striking is the response of the people whom the initial Monday demonstrations by Zepp-LaRouche's Büso party, and the LaRouche Youth Movement, have touched. People have been entranced by the singing by the youth, often joining in. Others have burst out crying that they are losing everything due to the economic collapse. Still others have pummeled the organizers with questions, curious about how these young people see a solution to the crisis which

seemed so insoluble to them. They are often bubbling over with excitement about the fact that the LaRouches have put a solution on the table, which in fact would work.

These subjective responses are coherent with the evidence that a mass strike process is beginning to come into being. People who receive leaflets are not only calling the organizers to learn more and get more material, but in one case, a woman decided to bring 100 persons on her own to the next Monday night rally! Trade unions are calling Monday night demonstrations in cities other than Leipzig, to call attention to the joblessness and social injustice. The contagion is spreading—and with it, the hope for a positive change, at long last.

What this reflects is a new strategic geometry, in which a new paradigm comes into effect. Once people have realized that the current system has reached its fag end, they are prepared to examine new ideas, or old ones that they thought were "too radical" before. A similar process was in evidence in Boston, at and around the Democratic National Convention, when delegates who were previously cynical about their political party, and dubious, to say the least, about LaRouche, found themselves captivated by the LaRouche Youth Movement, both in its singing and in its ideas. In one sense it was similar to Leipzig, with people asking, in effect, "Why are you doing this for us? Do you really think we have a chance?"

With such a flicker of hope, nourished with ideas, beauty, and determination, do revolutionary changes occur.

It may be too early to say that this new movement of Monday demonstrations, beginning in Leipzig, will definitely succeed in mobilizing the millions required to implement a new world economic order based on social justice. In history, there are no guarantees. But a new era is being born, in which it is clear that the opportunity is there to be seized—not only in Germany and the United States, but throughout the world. And with a youth movement steeped in the Classics and LaRouche's ideas at the lead, and the dreadful consequences of failure vividly obvious, the potential for victory is greater than ever before.