

NAWAPA Extended: A Eurasian Case-Study

This brief, 7 1/2-minute video¹, looks at a project to revive the Aral Sea, a NAWAPA-like project which was shut down under former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachov, but recently has been promoted by German stateswoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, as well as the former Mayor of Moscow, the Presidents of Kazakstan and Uzbekistan, and the former head of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences.

The transformation of the region around the Aral Sea would be achieved by linking up the runoff from rivers in Siberia with the Aral, in a region which has been experiencing a biospheric and noëtic downshift as a result of the desiccation of the sea. A dramatic shrinking has taken place since the 1960s and '70s, when water from the rivers that flowed into the Aral, was diverted for water-intensive cotton farming. The subsequent dessication has destroyed the fishing industry and agriculture, and significantly affected weather in the surrounding region, which is now plagued by salt storms.

The narrator asks pointedly: "Is this region, with some of the most fertile soil in Central Asia supposed to be a desert?"

Looking at the map, we can see that the solution to this crisis lies many miles away, to the northeast, in the Altai Mountains, at the intersection of Russia, China, Kazakstan, and Mongolia. It is a region of anomalously high precipitation, and the source of the Ob and Irtysh rivers, which drain into the Arctic.

A canal, 2550 km long, and 200 meters wide, will be constructed, and combined with dams and reservoirs, to

capture a portion of the runoff waters that now drain into the Arctic, and continue on to refresh the waters of the Aral Sea. Fishing and agriculture will be rejuvenated, as 4 1/2 million hectares of irrigable land will be made available to produce for Russian and Eurasian consumption. This greening process will impact climate and other biospheric cycles, as NAWAPA will do in the U.S.A.

—Bonnie James

FIGURE 1
The Aral Sea, as it appeared in 1973...



LPACTV videograb

FIGURE 2
...and as it appears today.



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1. www.larouchepac.com/node/15727