

FDR's Mission: Our Future, as We Are Given the Ability To Know It

by Phil Rubenstein

History is full of seeming coincidences. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, thirty-third President of the United States, the only President to be elected to four terms, died on April 12, 1945 in Warm Springs, Georgia. His funeral and burial took place in Washington, D.C. and Hyde Park, N.Y., respectively. April fourteenth and fifteenth, seventy years to the day after the assassination and death of President Abraham Lincoln. The sixteenth President of the United States was murdered five days after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, effectively ending the War of Southern Rebellion. FDR died less than one month before the defeat of Nazism in World War II. In both cases, they were succeeded by men who, if not traitors, were far too small-minded, too petty to carry the mission of their predecessors. In this way, was the mission of our nation, in the wake of these crises of Imperial destruction, imperiled even to this day.

As described elsewhere in this issue of *EIR*, as word spread of FDR's passing, young men, still at war, wondered what the future would be for them, their families, their nation, or, for some, humanity.

In some cases, these men knew, that that future was up to them and their understanding of FDR's mission as President of the United States—and even a deepening of that purpose.

One such case was the young Lyndon LaRouche in the Burma-China-India theater, where there was nearly half a year of war still ahead. He was asked by his comrades what to expect, and he understood then what was to be expected of him.

LaRouche ended his service in India as its struggle for Independence was being fought. India was a country that played a leading role in what FDR understood



President Franklin D. Roosevelt

his mission and that of his country, to be.

Roosevelt's conception of these purposes is the force which led this nation to overcome the Depression, defeat Fascism, and, by the end of the war, to stand on the brink, not only of ending Empire, especially the British Empire, but of a great leap toward fulfilling the American Revolution in the form of a new relation among independent nations, freed from colonialism to develop their own powers of human creativity.

Reviving Hamilton's Principle

Much of what is said or written about FDR, in its sheer banality, amounts to little but gossip, or more to the point, slander. He was not a clever pol, or a pragmatic maneuverer of policies and people, or merely a "first-rate temperament." Even the sympathetic portrayal of his battle with polio misses the point. His purpose was not simply to walk, or to get back to politics as it was; his purpose was to revive Hamiltonian economics and human value, and the Presidency itself, as the core principles of the United States. His conception of the General Welfare, the Forgotten Man, was deepened during his Presidency, as was his sense of the historic import of those purposes.

That his economic principles were those of Hamilton's conception of the development of labor as the basis of credit and value, is shown in his policies as governor of New York, which precisely foreshadowed the New Deal with old-age security and unemployment insurance, as well as infrastructure and electrification. It was the same outlook behind his assignment of Harry Hopkins to drive the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and then Lend-Lease. In each case, he rejected the monetarist standards through which the British had driven the world to disaster.

Even more conclusive is FDR's explicitly defining of the New Deal in terms of the Preamble to the Constitution to which, as recently demonstrated in [Bob Ingham's report](#), Hamilton and his allies formulated the Preamble to shape the Constitution around the General Welfare and "our posterity." In the introduction to Volume 2 of his Public Papers¹ he says:

The New Deal was fundamentally intended as a modern expression of ideals set forth 150 years ago in the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States 'a more perfect union, justice, tranquility, the common defense, the general welfare and the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.'

Roosevelt throughout was clear that Wall Street, the financial sector, the speculators, were the problem. As he famously said in the 1936 campaign, "They hate me and I welcome their hatred."

It was FDR's Hamiltonian revival that made the United States the industrial provider for Great Britain, the USSR, and others, as well as for the United States itself. From Lend-Lease to the U.S. entry into the war, it was U.S. industry and its ability to develop its Labor Power and its military personnel that fueled our decisive role in victory.

Creating a New Sense of Humanity

Winning the war was a mission that FDR enabled, but it was not the mission of the Presidency. That mission was about the future: the ability to create a world in which these wars did not occur.

FDR, as others, like General MacArthur and General Eisenhower, saw the hideous nature of World War II—the death, the brutality, the growing destructiveness of weaponry, the insanity—as a threat to humanity's existence. At the same time, solving that threat, meant a great leap to a new sense of humanity. FDR's Presidential mission was to make the Presidency of the United States of America a leader for that future.

Among the clear signs of this, little noted today, was his fierce opposition to his strange ally Winston Churchill, on the continuance of British Imperial rule. The case of India makes the point. For FDR, the war was to end the colonialism and imperial policy that caused the war. We were not fighting to maintain

Empire. India should gain its independence, even during the war. Churchill was apoplectic, as FDR made numerous suggestions as to how to accomplish that independence. For FDR, independence was never separated from economic development.

In the case of China, Roosevelt recognized its potential greatness and its past greatness, and insisted on its inclusion in the Big Four. The British, in the person of Churchill, denigrated the Chinese, and only reluctantly agreed to recognize them as a part of the Alliance, meanwhile undercutting them at every chance.

And of course, it was Roosevelt who drew the Soviet Union into the Dialogue of Nations, knowing full well, that this was crucial to winning the war, and the future. Churchill, Wall Street, and the likes of Lord Bertrand Russell wanted the United States to use the atomic bomb to force the Soviets to capitulate to Western financial and political hegemony. Much more could be said on this.

FDR's Mission was to use the Presidency to lead a dialogue of independent nations, able to solve problems from a common base of mutual development, with open and shared science and technology. He knew this was the only alternative to self-destruction. He himself had reversed the destruction led by two rabidly anglophile, pro-confederate Presidents of the United States: Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt. The rule of slavery had to be ended globally.

FDR knew the unique capacity of the Hamiltonian Presidency. He not only fought Wall Street and the Judiciary, and the State's Rights mask of the pro-British Confederacy, but he used the Presidency to define a common mission for a united nation.

So today, Lyndon LaRouche revives the Presidency destroyed by the Bushes, Cheney, and Obama by invoking the same Alexander Hamilton, centered in the same New York from which Roosevelt acted. Now a global development movement exists, led by China, India, and Russia, exactly as foreseen by Roosevelt, countries whose policies and ideas have been inspired by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche and their recognition of the true nature of humanity, as Roosevelt did in his mission.

We are building the World Land-Bridge; we need now the very relations among nations that FDR had foreseen in his view of the post-war world. Seventy years later, as we can explore the astrophysical and use the micro-physical, we can create the future—that was his mission.

1. *The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt*, Vol. 2.