

Editorial

August 15, 1971: twenty years after

August 15, 1971 was the day that Richard Nixon pulled the plug, taking the U.S. dollar off the gold standard. From that day may be marked the beginning of a new, and terrible, era in global affairs.

That criminally foolish act signalized the beginning of the domination over the world, of the *superpower condominium*, the carving-up of the world between the latter-day British imperialism which began to take root in Washington, and the revived imperialism of the Soviet Empire.

From that day, the economic policy of the Anglo-American empire began to make itself felt in the Third World. Gone was even the facade of an "alliance for progress"; in its place, the Anglo-American empire, the superpower condominium, said to the poor nations of the world: no development for you.

To make that policy stick, the power of the International Monetary Fund was brought to bear; austerity was imposed, the repayment of usurious debt became the sole economic function permitted to the Third World. And if that meant they could no longer sustain their populations? Well, the post-1971 imperialism had an answer for that, too. It was called zero population growth, the "limits to growth" of the 1972 anti-science, anti-human hoax by MIT's Forrester and Meadows; the propaganda of the Club of Rome and its *Blueprint for Survival*. It meant that the Third World populations would die, in order to conserve resources for the empires, and pay unpayable debt.

For those who were associated with Lyndon LaRouche and his ideas in 1971, Nixon's decoupling of the dollar from gold confirmed what LaRouche had been warning of: the emergence of a world economy dedicated to paper, not production; the collapse of the productive capacity of the advanced-sector nations, and the throttling of the productive capacity of the Third World. Ultimately: depression, famine, disease, and wars.

In 1972, with the publication of *Blueprint for Extinction*, LaRouche dissected the zero-growth ideology, demonstrating that its application would mean an end to the human species. He made plain—as he has done repeatedly since, in books like *There Are No Limits to Growth* and *Development Is the Name for*

Peace—that the lies of zero growth, and "limited resources," are the ideology of this new malthusian imperialism, denying technology and development, medicine and food, even the possibility of producing these things, to the masses of humanity, just as did the hideous empires of the past, from that of Rome to that of the British Crown.

Twenty years after Aug. 15, 1971, LaRouche's analysis has been confirmed many times over, in the famines wracking the Third World; in the spread of the ultimate disease of poverty, AIDS; in the resource wars, like Bush's imperial adventure in the Gulf.

And emphatically, in the depression. Now, perhaps, many Americans are waiting for "the crash," waiting for the onset of depression. No need to wait; *the depression is already here*. The power of the United States to manufacture has eroded past the point of no return, if it were left to itself to restart its economy. Just as Third World nations, in the 20 years since August 1971, have seen their standards of living collapse to below the levels they enjoyed before World War II, so too, the United States has seen its industrial might and technological edge collapse. "The crash" will not be the beginning of the depression; it will be the point at which the debt-swollen financial structures come into correspondence with the underlying reality, in the physical economy, of *depression*.

What is the solution? On Oct. 12, 1988, speaking at the Bristol-Kempinski Hotel in Berlin, LaRouche, in calling for the reunification of Germany, laid out what has come to be called the European "Productive Triangle" of production. That proposal, now sparking tremendous interest in economically devastated eastern Europe, would organize the industrial strength of Europe, pivoted on its strongest economy—Germany's—to link the economies of eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union, to an engine of production which could pull the whole world, including the United States and the dying Third World, out of depression and into an economy of growth.

The lesson of Aug. 15, 1971, is one most Americans have yet to learn; if there is to be a future for our country, it is high time—past time—to learn it now.