

So, nobody should try to impose these policies on these countries. And I think we have reached the point in history where either we bring the political order in cohesion with the laws of the universe, or this civilization will not make it. And that is what's on the agenda.

**EIR:** I know that you're involved in a campaign for the restoration of Classical education in Germany. I think there would be tremendous interest in that in the United States, if people knew about it. Could you tell us something about it?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes. This is not only a problem for Germany. This present financial crisis is not only a financial crisis, but it is part of what I call a civilizational crisis, where the entire culture which represented the high point of European culture, of 2,500 years, which is also the basis of Americans' culture, is about to be lost.

You have right now, just to mention one aspect of it: Not only is the knowledge of universal history virtually disappearing among the younger generations, but you also have an outbreak of youth violence in the United States, in Europe, in other places, which is absolutely breathtaking. If a country, if a society, looks at its own young people as the most dangerous component of its society, then that is a symptom of a dying civilization.

Now therefore, what I'm doing in Germany in particular, is that I'm trying to revive the greatest educational system which, in my view, ever existed, which is the Humboldt educational system of the 19th century — which is not outdated, as some people may think, simply because it defines as the goal of education that the outcome of education must be beauty of character: that pupils are not supposed to learn just technical skills for practical jobs, but that they have to develop their character, that they must take responsibility for their place in universal history, that they must know the tremendous contributions of all previous generations, to then know, from that standpoint, how to contribute to the future, and future generations.

Right now, the issue of education is probably — aside from the economic issue, you know, the unemployment, the financial meltdown, and so forth — education is the hottest issue in Germany, because anybody who is not completely immoral, understands that if we leave to our children a world which is in such a condition where drugs, Techno, the most horrible noise, rhythmic noise, which is not to be called music, is actually causing not only damage to the ears, but brain damage, so that people who are undergoing this for a long period of time, they indeed can not think any more, that their cognitive powers are severely hampered, that we can not leave the future world to these values.

But, we have to go back to the Classical values of Classical Greece, of the Italian Renaissance, of the German Classics, which have an idea of man as man in the image of God, as man infinitely capable of self-perfection.

## G-8 sanctions will fuel chaos in Pakistan

by Ramtanu Maitra

Following the testing of nuclear devices in May by Pakistan in the Chagai Hills in the province of Baluchistan, the U.S. government, followed by the Group of Eight (G-8), has imposed tough economic sanctions, ostensibly to teach the Pakistanis a lesson. As has become routine, the White House wrung its hands in despair, blaming the nuclear tests and the U.S. law for further tightening the screws on an already debt-ridden Pakistan.

Considered an ally by some in Washington, Pakistan has long been suffering deeply because of its deteriorating financial situation, thanks to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank and other paraphernalia associated with the moribund Bretton Woods system. Developed nations know in detail exactly how precarious Pakistan's financial status is. What no one seems interested in facing squarely, is the fact that the economic sanctions will have a devastating social effect with potentially dangerous political implications.

A few days prior to testing, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen. Jehangir Karamat, was overheard at a diplomatic function in Islamabad pointing out that, much more than India's acquired nuclear capabilities, the threat to Pakistan's security is its weak economy. General Karamat can be presumed to know what he's talking about, and one could surmise that the sanctions imposed by the G-8 will further undermine Pakistan's security and create internal dissension and chaos.

The IMF has already put on hold a \$1.6 billion financial aid package for Pakistan, despite the fact that the IMF review team reported back that Islamabad had complied with all its earlier demands.

### Already in deep recession

Pakistan's economy is in deep recession. The real Gross Domestic Product grew by only 1.3% last year. Thanks to sanctions, the growth could be negative this year. External debt is \$25 billion, and the country's debt service bill, which amounts to more than 30% of Pakistan's export income, is growing steadily at a rate close to 7% annually.

Since 1987-88, poverty in Pakistan has also been rising steadily (following a fall between 1969-70 to 1987-88). Pakistan's 1997-98 economic survey reported: "Absolute poverty declined in Pakistan from 46.5% in 1969-70, to 17.3% in

1987-88. In the same period, rural poverty has declined from 49.1% to 18.3%, and in the urban areas it declined from 38.8% to about 15%. However, since 1987-88, poverty [has risen] in Pakistan. In 1992-93, 22.3% of the population had income below the poverty level compared with 17.3% in 1987-88. The rural poverty level at 26.2% and urban poverty at 21.7% in 1992-93 has also increased from the 1987-88 level."

The annual budget presented by Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, is perhaps the most austere in Pakistan's recent history. The opposition has already called the budget anti-poor, which is certainly true, though it is not so by choice, but because of the financial constraints within which the Finance Minister had to draft the budget.

In order to meet the foreign debt repayments, which may be as high as \$600 million, at the end of June. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif undertook a trip to West Asia. It is likely that the West Asian countries will bail Pakistan out from defaulting, but it will only mean paying back the creditors while pauperizing the people further.

### The extremist danger

While this process may evoke only a "So what's new?" from those who walk the corridors of power in Washington, some in Pakistan assess the situation differently. Agha Masood, a former union minister and now a columnist with the largest Urdu newspaper, argues that Pakistan is on the brink of an Islamic fundamentalist takeover. "At this rate," Masood told a seminar recently, "it may be only four months before Qazi Hussain Ahmed [the Jamaat-e-Islami chief] will be in or close to the citadel of power." Similar fears were expressed by B.M. Kutty, a veteran of Pakistan's left politics and now the general secretary of Pakistan National Conference (PNC), a new multi-party alliance. Kutty insists that the fears expressed by Masood are real.

There is no question that the country's decade-long economic deprivation, together with the gathering of strength of the Afghans, the mujahideen that were organized and armed by Washington, London, and other crusaders against the Soviet occupation, have worked hand-in-hand in consolidating the extremists' base within Pakistan. The ferocity and frequency of Shia-Sunni sectarian riots in Punjab, the nearly daily ruthless killings in Karachi and other major cities of Sindh, chauvinist pressure for autonomy for the Pushtoons of the North West Frontier Province, and growing intolerance toward minorities—best reflected in more frequent exercise of the laws imposing mandatory death sentences on individuals accused of blasphemy against Islam—are there for all to see.

In the 1980s, the movers and shakers of the "Free World" gave Lt. Gen. Hameed Gul complete freedom to organize Afghan mujahideen against the invading Red Army. What came out of that is an immensely powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) under Gul, controlling the drug- and gun-

running rejects of the Muslim nations. It also made Afghanistan a killing field, peddling ethnic warfare, opium, and guns. The ISI, now further strengthened with the help of British and other foreign intelligence networks and mafias, was instrumental in bringing the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. In order to recruit the religious orthodox Taliban, help came from Maulana Fazlur Rehman, a Pakistani politician with a noticeable following in Baluchistan and the patron saint of the Taliban.

In the past, Gul and his rag-tag mujahideen jihadis, led by the corrupt and degenerate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, gave the Soviet Army a run for its money. Now, some of the Russians are in the same drug-mafia network, and there are strong rumors that the religious chauvinists, with the protection of the ISI, are making forays into the neighboring Chinese province of Xinjiang, where a militant minority Muslim group is demanding secession from Beijing.

The arming of the Afghan mujahideen was considered a masterpiece by some geopoliticians, such as Zbigniew Brzezinski. Nonetheless, it pitched Pakistan into a future stocked with distress and agony. Now, by forcing upon the Pakistanis a fresh dose of economic hardship, it is likely that the G-8 will help yet another force, perhaps even more venal, to emerge in Pakistan's ragged social fabric.

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