

Empires Always Destroy Themselves

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

The following is the Sept. 3 keynote speech to the conference of the Schiller Institute and International Caucus of Labor Committees in Vienna, Virginia. Some of the illustrations used by Mrs. LaRouche have been omitted for copyright reasons, and the text has been edited accordingly.

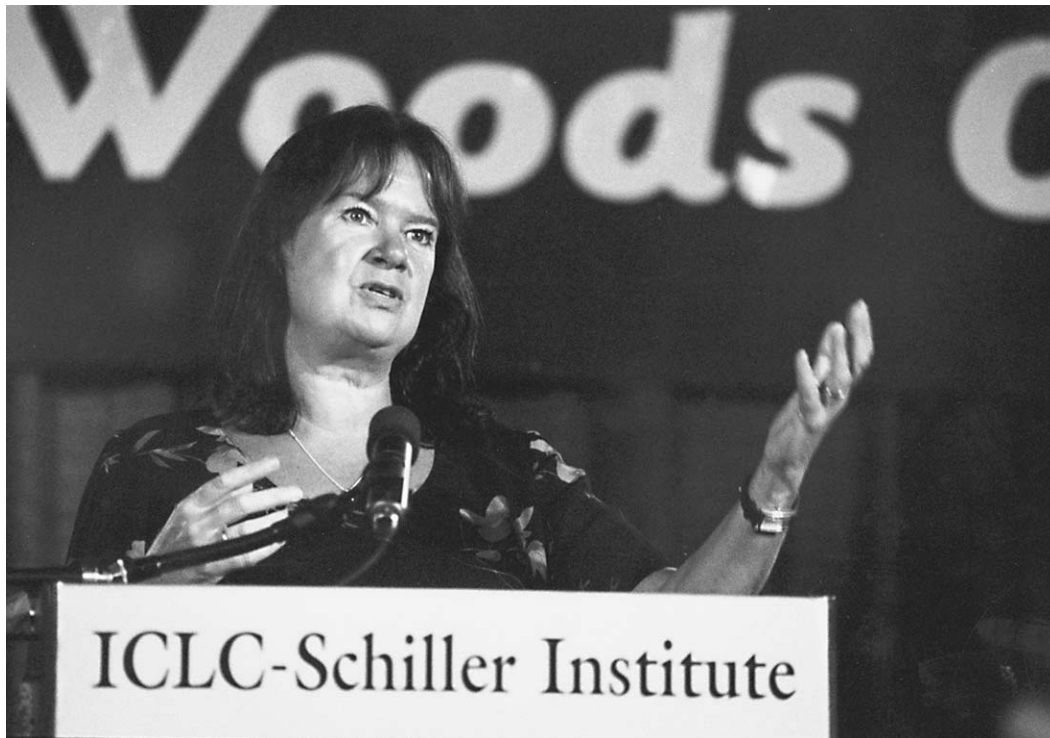
I will talk to you today, about the reasons why empires always collapse.

But, let me start with a rather eerie statement, which Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan just made a couple of days ago, at the meeting of top bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he reminded people of the fact that, already in 1913, there was a kind of globalization. And, he said: Well, we all thought it would stay, but you all remember what happened one year after that—namely, World War I.

I want to quote what appeared in *Pravda*,¹ on Aug. 22, where they wrote: “World War III Could Have Begun on Saturday,” quoting unnamed Kremlin sources on what happened during the first 48 hours after the *Kursk* sank. “On Saturday, Aug. 12, an incident occurred in the Barents Sea, where the Russian Federation Northern Fleet was conducting exercises, which nearly led to the outbreak of a full-scale combat, a third world war. *Pravda* has learned this from Kremlin sources. For several days, the world hung by a thread, and one false political move could have led to an exchange of nuclear strikes.” *Pravda* then proceeds with a dramatic account about the reaction inside Russia, and then says: “Happily, this incident in the Barents Sea was successfully resolved by political means. Agreement to end the affair in peace was reached during a conversation by telephone between Vladimir Putin and Bill Clinton. The Presidents’ conversation lasted 25 minutes, and nothing of the content was reported in the mass media.”

Actually, whether Greenspan meant it this way, or even understands the reasons for it, globalization *always* leads to world wars.

1. The Russian-language website Pravda.ru. For further excerpts, see *EIR*, Sept. 1, 2000.



Helga Zepp-LaRouche addresses the Schiller Institute-ICLC conference. "Today, the would-be empire of globalization is in the process of destroying itself in the same way, in which Romanticism led Emperor Napoleon to cause his own self-destruction."

Globalization: the New Empire

What we see today, in the form of globalization, is nothing new. It is, once again, the effort to set up a world empire, this time, under Anglo-American control. This is not a secret. The proponents of this empire, are openly bragging about it, and I quote from the current issue of the magazine *The National Interest*, Zbigniew Brzezinski's article, "Living with the New Europe." Brzezinski writes: "Currently, Europe, despite its economic strengths, significant economic and financial integration, and enduring authenticity of the transatlantic friendship, is a de facto military protectorate of the United States. This situation necessarily generates tensions and resentment." (I can assure Mr. Brzezinski that it does!) "Nonetheless," he continues, "it is not only a fact that the alliance between American and Europe is unequal, but it is also true that the existing asymmetry in power between the two is likely to widen even further in America's favor." And then, he says, the reason is the advances in biotechnology, information technology, and military technology. And then, he says, "As a result, the United States is likely to remain the only true global power for at least another generation," meaning 25 years.

Obviously, the Russians and the Chinese will read this with deep concern.

Then, he gives the reasons why Europe should shut up, and be happy to be run as a U.S. protectorate, since it only profits from going along with the system, and since, having all these privileges resulting from this system, it could be envied for its prosperity. And, then, against the dangers from new imperialism in Russia, Africa, or South Central Asia,

only with the alliance with the United States, could it be saved.

Now, if you want an example of what this new Anglo-American empire is, you have to really take Brzezinski—and Kissinger, for that matter—as I'm going to prove to you, as being very characteristic of those people, who, indeed, represent the problem.

This outrageous article by Brzezinski, was the subject, just now, in France, of a discussion between the French Foreign Minister Védrine, at the annual meeting of the French ambassadors, where Védrine not only attacked globalization—how it undermines the sovereignty of the state, and how it really ruins any effort by nations to conduct business—but then, sharply criticized the American elites. He then asks: Will the U.S. election cause a change in the general direction of U.S. policy? And he answers: "I don't think so. There is a very strong consensus in the U.S. concerning leadership, which must be theirs in the world. The two major parties share that consensus. There is a danger of new unilateralism, the concept which is the mechanical extension of its hyperpower status. I advise you, in this respect, to read a most edifying article, written recently by Brzezinski"; and then, he quotes exactly this article, "Living with the New Europe," in *The National Interest* magazine.

To briefly review: How did this occur? During the Gulf War, Desert Storm, President Bush, Sr. proclaimed, "Now we will have a New World Order." This was the Anglo-American response to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. At that point, what the Apostle Paul would have called the "principalities and pow-

ers” of the Anglo-Americans, decided that now was the time to have a new world empire.

And, if you look at the elements of this empire, you see that, indeed, “globalization” is the new name of this empire. It demands free flows of speculative capital, so that ever-larger amounts of money can loot the majority of the world population. It demands total IMF control over all national financial and monetary policies around the world. Part of this globalization, was the so-called “reform” policy in post-Soviet Russia, which was really nothing but gigantic looting, which has thrown Russia into an economic and demographic abyss, such that Russia has now been losing, for the last ten years, 1 million people per year. It included the unprecedented looting of strategic resources in Africa, which is really going on in an unbelievable way. It has caused the spread of AIDS and other epidemics, so that we have a Black Death, of a 14th-Century dimension, going on in Africa, right now. And, disregarding this, the looting continues.

The new globalization includes the new “Great Game” against Central Asia, the effort to grab the oil and gas and other resources of the Caspian Sea. It involves the brutal imposition of the IMF dictate on Asia, during and after the so-called “Asia crisis” of 1997-98.

It has a global military component, which is the NATO expansion, which is not only supposed to include eastern Europe—Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, which are already included—but, soon, it’s supposed to involve the Baltic states, Ukraine, Central Asia.

Resistance Breaks Out

The political credo given out by these forces is, that there is no alternative to this globalization.

Well, is that really true? The alternative is already developing itself.

In Asia, countries have learned the hard way, that, not only did they get no warning from the IMF, when the crisis hit—and no help—but, they were thrown into the pit by the measures imposed on them by the IMF. So, now, they’re organizing self-defense, which includes the Chiang Mai initiative and rapid motion to create a monetary mechanism of self-defense against the expected next Asia crisis: the Asian Monetary Fund. North and South Korea are moving toward unification, pulling the rug out from under strategic manipulations of the region. Japan, China, Southeast Asia, Iran, Central Asia are all talking about economic integration around a new railroad Silk Road.

And a similar development is happening right now in South America, where these countries see the only future in continent-wide economic integration, clearly in opposition to the globalization.

Then, there was this extremely interesting article last Sunday, in a German paper, by the French-connected journalist Peter Scholl-Latour, where he says, Isn’t it strange, how the Western media covered the *Kursk* incident, in which, all of

a sudden, an incredible viciousness and open joy about the catastrophe of Russia was expressed? What has brought about this sudden change in the coverage of Putin, he asks, who was celebrated, until recently, by the media, as a potential Messiah, and now has become a sinister monster? The real reason, he argues, is the fact, that a major strategic shift has occurred. “Only one year ago, everybody believed that the large American energy companies had succeeded in eliminating the Russians from their spheres of influence in the Central Asian countries. And that they would have captured the gigantic oil and gas resources there, including the control over the transport lines through the non-Russian territories. But in this new version of the Great Game, Vladimir Putin decisively won against the opponent of the all-powerful United States.”

He writes that Moscow has just signed an agreement with Kazakstan concerning petrol production, which in all likelihood, is finishing the U.S. project from Baku to Georgia, to the Turkish port of Ceyhan. Turkmenistan turned away from the United States, favoring Russia with supplies of natural gas. And, even more noteworthy, Uzbekistan, which was a prime target for integration into NATO, is now reorienting toward Russia, and this is happening, because all of these states feel threatened by militant Islamists, who were trained by the United States.

All of this goes back to Brzezinski’s playing the Islamic card against the Soviet Union, as early as 1975.

Then, also quite amazing, in the semi-official German TV station, Phoenix, this same journalist called on viewers to reflect on the danger, that the American presence in Kosovo and Bosnia is just a stepping-stone for further operations into the Caucasus and Central Asia, which he compared to Hitler’s Operation Barbarossa against the Soviet Union in World War II.

Now, I’m quoting this, because all of this, you, for sure, will not read in the American media. But, that is what people around the world are discussing.

The irony and dilemma of globalization is, that like any empire, the more it expands, and the harder it imposes controls and repression, the faster it brings about its own destruction. The more the tyranny tightens the screws, the more the centrifugal forces increase. It is a characteristic of all empires, that, as they approach their end-phase, the dictators become so obsessed, that they don’t realize on what fragile, brittle grounds they operate, unable to recognize counter-forces in formation, unable to size up developments any longer.

Napoleon: The First Modern Fascist

What I will present to you today, is a review of that historical example, which Lyn has called “the case of the first modern fascist”: namely, Napoleon Bonaparte, and his short-lived

rule. The lesson to be learned from that, is how this empire came into being, and then brought about its own destruction.

Napoleon and his fall are, of course, long gone, and you could say, “Why should one bother about something that happened 200 years ago?” But, unfortunately, the cult of Romanticism, which his reign did so much to bring about and into dominance, continues to the present day. Today, once again, the would-be empire of globalization is in the process of destroying itself in the same way, in which Romanticism led Emperor Napoleon to cause his own self-destruction in the Russian campaign of 1812, and in the Liberation Wars, which immediately followed.

Think back: About 250 years ago, there was a beautiful revival of Classical culture in Europe, based on the tradition of the ideas of Gottfried Leibniz and Johann Sebastian Bach, which we associate today with the work of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schiller, Goethe, and the Humboldts. It was this revival of Classical culture in Europe, which created the political conditions and the European-wide support and sympathy for the cause of freedom in North America, under which the United States of America was created. It was a time for great hope: The American Revolution meant a watershed in history; the system of oligarchism had been dealt a severe blow. There was the immediate chance to replicate this example of republican freedom in France, where the circles of Lafayette were coordinating their plans with like-minded republicans in the United States, Russia, Ireland, Prussia, and other countries. And, indeed, the early phase of the French Revolution gave reason to hope that things would go in this direction, and was welcomed by Schiller and his friends.

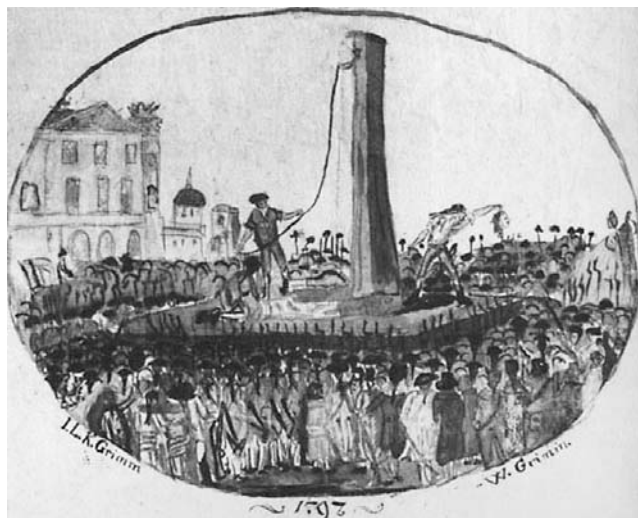
But, then, disaster struck: the launching of the Jacobin Terror in France by the enemies of both the United States and France, in the British Foreign Office. This Terror lasted for five years, and nearly destroyed European civilization as a whole.

Under the pretext of spreading the ideas of 1789—Freedom, Equality, and Brotherhood—France was continuously waging wars, supposedly to free the attacked countries from their despots. Paul Barras, who had brought Louis XVI under the guillotine (**Figure 1**) (here you have an early case of George W. Bush, using the execution machine), made this Corsican, Napoleon Buonaparte (because he had an Italian name, originally), his *aide-de-camp*. He gave him his own *mâîtresse*—you know, a lover—Josephine, as a wife, and then sent him, two days later, as the chief general of the French Army to Italy, to conduct a war.

The way Napoleon plundered Italy, and generally conducted himself, caused Lazare Carnot, who was then a member of the Directorate, to warn that Napoleon would become a second Caesar, who would, after conquering Italy, come back to Paris to become the dictator of a new Rome.

But first, Napoleon found it necessary to build up his power by conducting the campaign against Egypt, which is mainly noteworthy because of the war crimes he committed

FIGURE 1



The predecessors of George W. Bush, during the French Revolution, wield the guillotine.

there, scrupulously killing thousands of prisoners of war and committing euthanasia against the victims of the bubonic plague. After the victory of Abukir, over the Turks, he returned to Paris, where he exploited the fact that, in the meantime, the economy had degenerated. He used that situation, to carry out a coup, on Nov. 9, 1799, to take power by usurpation.

Now, interestingly, when he was about to address the Parliament, he was so unstable, that he could not even talk. And, but for the brilliant intervention of his brother, Lucien, who was president of the Council of 500, who called in the soldiers to dissolve the Council, and the help of his two brothers-in-law, Murat and Leclerc, he would have failed. He had a weak stomach, contrary to the mythology.

Napoleon then declared that the Revolution was ended, and he quickly proceeded to make himself Premier Counsel, with absolute powers. Carnot had been proven right: The new Caesar was on his way. He kept the rhetoric of the Revolution, but, as we saw with the coronation of Gore and Bush, words quickly become empty shells, which can be filled with quite a different content.

The New Caesar

Napoleon proceeded to use the procedure deployed already by the Roman Empire: the plebescite. In the communes, lists where presented, where the population was supposed to cast their vote, of approval or disapproval. But, obviously, the vote was not secret—it was actually like in Michigan, in the Democratic caucus, where people had to write their name and telephone number, and address on the ballot sheet.² So,

2. See “International Team Observes Michigan Election Atrocities,” *EIR*, March 24, 2000.

naturally, only 3 million people voted “yes,” 1,500 “no”—but the majority abstained.

And, Lucien Bonaparte, the brother, who had become the Interior Minister in the meantime, said: This large abstention, is actually a vote of mistrust; and he was very worried.

So, what do you think the large abstention in the United States from the voting process really means?

Now, in the meantime, the population had some signs of strain over France’s involvement in the second Coalition War. Napoleon pretended to seek peace, and sent letters to London and Vienna. The negative responses allowed him to present himself as the disappointed peace-lover, and he immediately issued a war call to his army. He wrote to the soldiers: “You conquered Holland, the Rhine, Italy. You dictated the peace behind the walls of the terrified Vienna. Now, it is no longer only a question to defend your borders. Now, you have to take over the enemy states.”

What Napoleon capitalized on, were the groundbreaking changes that Lazare Carnot had made, in cooperation with people like Gaspard Monge, in the training of the French Army, in the earlier years of the Revolution. Carnot, the author of many groundbreaking writings on military theory, such as the “L’Eloge de Vauban” (Vauban was the great builder of fortifications in France), completely changed the training, development, and the technologies of the army. He emphasized that the use of the most modern science and technology would be war-decisive—something which Napoleon, at best, partially understood.

What Napoleon, on the other hand, was very good at, was to put out his own propaganda. When he crossed the Alps, he sent home war reports, in which he drew the parallel between his crossing, and that of Hannibal crossing the Alps in 218 B.C.

In a pincer movement, General Moreau attacked the enemy in southern Germany, while Napoleon engaged the Austrians, who still operated with the old mercenary army in closed formations. At the first encounter, the French were beaten. But, after Napoleon got reinforcements from General Desaix, he beat them. Derais was killed in the Battle of Marengo, and Napoleon took all the fame for himself.

In the Peace of Luneville, on Feb. 9, 1801, Austria had to recognize the French territories in Switzerland, Holland, the Helvetian and Batavian Republic, and the Rhine, to be the natural border of France. While the expansionist policies of Napoleon in Europe continued, he escalated the repression inside France. Various plots against him were discovered; Jacobins planned the murder of the tyrant. An *attentat*, an assassination attempt, on Oct. 24, 1800, which did not hurt Napoleon, and only killed some bystanders and guards, was used to get rid of all the left and right opposition. The rumor was spread that the Bourbon Prince, Louis the Bourbon, was behind the attack. And, Napoleon did not hesitate to have the soldiers kidnap him in the German city of Ettenheim, and kill

him on the same night—it was like an early Panama operation.

Napoleon represented himself as the expression of the will of the people, and developed argumentations of power, later to be used, in the 19th and 20th Centuries, among others, by Adolf Hitler.

He organized the first Gestapo, state police, founded and led by the notorious Police Minister Fouché, who had plenty of experience with Jacobin Terror. His involvement in the massacre of Lyon, which killed 2,600 people, had been too much even for Robespierre. Fouché changed sides, helped to topple Robespierre, and bring Napoleon to power, and to keep him there, with the help of police methods.

An extensive network of informants and spies was found to control the population. A new criminal and civil law modelled on the Roman law, was introduced, and the Code Napoleon—this new law—was also introduced in all the occupied European countries.

With a second plebescite, Napoleon made himself Consul for Life, and he changed the Constitution to reduce the Parliament to total unimportance. On April 30, 1804, there was a vote, in which only one Tribune voted against crowning Napoleon as emperor: Lazare Carnot. And, Napoleon proceeded to make this emperorship hereditary. He was quite happy that the initiative to propose him to become emperor, had come from the same Tribune who had killed King Louis XVI. Napoleon’s model was to be a Roman emperor, *Imperator*, the supreme military commander, and therefore he called himself *Empereur*, with more powers than the kings of the *Ancien Régime*, because, in the meantime, the Revolution had wiped out all the institutions inbetween.

The coronation took place in Notre Dame cathedral, with enormous pomp and Gothic style. The cathedral was decked out with Classicist decorations made out of *papier-mâché*—sort of like the balloons going up at the Republican and Democratic conventions. And, this was supposed to be a demonstration of the new Roman spirit. The painter Jacques Louis David was supposed to paint these gigantic paintings, to make Napoleon immortal, in this way.

Napoleon insisted that Pope Pius VII make the long journey, to come and crown him, and then, Napoleon asked the Pope to anoint him. But, then, at the very last moment, when the Pope was about to crown Napoleon, Napoleon grabbed the crown and put it on his own head, and then proceeded to crown Josephine.

They used the protocols of Louis XIV, the famous Sun King, and introduced as the new culture, *Classicisme*, which was supposed to have Classical rules and forms, but, if you look at it more closely, they were not modelled on the Greek Classics, but on the Roman model. Napoleon very openly imitated Gracchus, Cicero, Spartacus, Brutus. The historian Taine describes him as the Diocletian, Constantine, Justinian, and the Theodorus of the Tuilleries.

Another historian, Franz Schnabel, wrote that Napoleon

modelled himself on the Roman Republic, and that the French population hoped they would get a *Pax Romana*, as in the Imperium Romanum, where many countries and different people should be ruled by one *Imperator*, the *Empereur*.

This style, by the way, was absolutely terrible, and they called it Classicism, but, indeed, it very quickly changed into a full-fledged Romanticism, the so-called *l'Empire* style, which is visible in the paintings of David and also François Gerard. This is a painting commemorating the myth of Ossian talking to the spirit of the Heroes. You can see the Romantic style. This cult of the emperor was conducted with a completely phony pathos.

Dominion over Europe

In the same year as the coronation of Napoleon, another emperor also made his throne hereditary, namely, Franz of Austria. This Austrian Empire, under the Hapsburgs, was rather large: It included Venice, Polish Lemberg [today Lviv, Ukraine], Prague, Budapest, Kronstadt; it became the arch-enemy of Napoleon, together with the British Empire and the Russian Empire.

It was clear, after Luneville, that this was not a real peace, but only a cease-fire. In 1803, the conflict with England escalated, and England, Austria, and Russia together, started the third Coalition War against France.

Napoleon tried to prepare the crossing of the Channel, and collected in Boulogne, a gigantic invasion army and a fleet to cross. But they were beaten in the Battle of Trafalgar, by Lord Nelson, who beat Admiral Villeneuve, who then committed suicide, because he not only lost the war, but was blamed by Napoleon, and the two disgraces were just too much for him.

But the Grand Armée was formed in Boulogne. It moved with incredible speed, from the coast of the Channel to the upper Danube, to meet there with four army corps, and two additional armies from northern Germany—German auxiliary troops. They beat the Austrians in several battles around Ulm, and sent back home to France, excited reports about victories, loot, and so forth.

One month later Napoleon marched into Vienna, which Franz left without a fight. It came to the famous Battle of Austerlitz, which was like a textbook battle. Austria and Russia tried to operate like Frederick the Great did at Leuthen: They tried to block the French retreat back to Vienna, and tried to bypass Napoleon's right flank. But Napoleon deliberately weakened that flank, to lure them into this operation. Then, Russian and Austria had to strengthen their left flank and their center, which then, Napoleon attacked with massive force, exactly in the center, exhausting parts of the troops, and putting to flight the rest. The battle was decided.

Napoleon dictated the Peace of Pressburg. Austria lost 3 million of its subjects, and many territories, including Germany and Italy. At that point, the Holy Roman Empire of

the German nation, founded by Otto the Great in 962, was finished, after 844 years. And the French Empire took over in Europe.

The Empire had to continuously be enlarged: That's how empires are—they have to grow like bubbles, or else they collapse.

So, to bring new power to this empire, and peace to the subjugated people, what happened was the establishment of a *Pax Napoleonica* in Europe. All Napoleon's brothers received royal crowns—like governorships in Florida and Texas, similar things. The sisters received little crowns; they became duchesses and princesses. Joseph became the King of Naples; Louis, the King of Holland; Jerome, the King of Westphalia, so forth and so on.

Now, the next victim was Prussia, which had not participated in the third Coalition War. Napoleon pressured Prussia to incorporate, as the leader of a North German alliance. Because of pressure by German patriots, King Friedrich Wilhelm III gave an ultimatum to Napoleon to get out of south Germany, and let Prussia take control over North Germany.

The Prussian army, since Frederick the Great, had made no progress. They still used the old mercenary army, in closed formations. The majority of the French troops were still in the German Rhineland Alliance states, because it was cheaper to keep them there, to have the Rheinbund princes pay for their maintenance. Then, on Oct. 14, 1806, there was the famous Battle of Jena and Auerstadt, where, in one day, Prussia lost 37,000 people, dead and wounded, and the rest ran away.

Thirteen days later, Napoleon marched into Berlin. Prussia had to pay 1.4 billion francs in money and work, which was 16 times the yearly income of the Prussian state. Napoleon dictated the Peace of Tilsit, where Prussia had to give up *half* of its state territory, and its population shrank from 9 million to only 4.5 million. They had to pay 140 million in war reparations, on top of that. At that point, the Prussian economy was ruined completely.

King Friedrich Wilhelm III and the Prussian state were totally finished. And Napoleon was at the height of his power.

Efforts of the Prussian Reformers

Schiller had been dead for only one year—he had died in 1805. Remember the beautiful Weimar Classical period? Was it all over? What was its role?

As I said, starting with Leibniz and Bach, Lessing, and Mendelssohn, there was a great revival of Greek Classicism, as the identity of Europe: the idea, that man is capable of producing valid ideas about the physical universe, because of his ability for cognition and creative reason; that man is always able to find a solution to a problem on a higher level; that there can be a necessary pathway for the continued existence of mankind; that man is capable of limitless perfectability; that the purpose of mankind is progress and ennoblement of its species; and, that the individual identity could be, that

each person can and should become a beautiful soul. And, for Schiller, it was very clear: A beautiful soul could only be a genius.

Wilhelm von Humboldt had transformed that beautiful idea of man into an educational system, with the idea that each child be exposed to such a universal education, in which the goal of education is not the learning of particular skills, but to become a beautiful character; that the way to improve the person, is through Classical art. This is how the ennoblement occurred, because Classical art trains both cognition and the emotions, to rise to the level of reason. For example, in drama, Schiller said that you have to expose people to great historical issues through drama, where the audience can identify with the hero on the stage. And, therefore, there is a very strict Classical form of how such a drama has to be conducted: a pregnant moment, which contains the entire story, in the beginning; the development of the story; and finally, the *punctum saliens*, where, after everything has played out, it is again up to the hero to either correct the flaws of his behavior—and, then, there’s a happy ending—or, if he’s unable to do so, then the tragedy unfolds.

The artist must, in this case, playfully elevate the audience, so that the craftsman, the saleswoman, the ordinary person—they all start to think like statesmen, responsible for the entire nation, and the future of the world. It is like the Marquis of Posa, in Schiller’s famous *Don Carlos* play, who tells Philip II: “Give up this unnatural deification of yourself, which destroys us. Become an example of the eternal and the truthful. Be a king of a million kings. Give us freedom of thought.” Yes, this was equality, too, but not the equality of the lowest common denominator of the Jacobins and the *sans culottes*. Equality on the highest level, where everybody must become a king, and think and act regally. Why? Because, as it is expressed in Schiller’s *Wilhelm Tell*, in the Ruetli Oath, where the entire fate of the Swiss people is expressed, in which Stauffacher says:

No, there is a limit to the tyrant’s power, when
The oppressed can find no justice, when
The burden grows unbearable—he reaches,
With hopeful courage up unto the heavens
And seizes hither his eternal rights,
Which hang above, inalienable
And indestructible as stars themselves—
The primal state of nature reappears,
When man stands opposite his fellow man—
As last resort, when not another means
Is of avail, the sword is given him—
The highest of all goods we may defend
From violence.—Thus stand we, ’fore our country,
Thus stand we ’fore our wives, and ’fore our children!

These are the ideas of the American Revolution: that all men and women are equipped with inalienable rights. These

FIGURE 2



Friedrich Freiherr von Hardenburg (Novalis)

were the ideas of Schiller, which influenced the Prussian reformers—Wilhelm von Humboldt, vom Stein, Scharnhorst, Gneissenu, and von Wolzogen. Vom Stein was convinced that the state would only be healthy, if all state citizens were enabled to participate actively in political life, and shape its direction. The reforms were aimed to overcome class society, and put in its place a nation of individually self-responsible citizens, equal before the law.

After the shock of Jena and Auerstadt, the halving of the country, they were able to implement at least some of these ideas. Humboldt would realize most of his education reform. Vom Stein realized, in 1807, the liberation of the peasants; in 1812, the emancipation of the Jews; in 1814, he introduced compulsory military service, and the elimination of the practice whereby officers could only come from the nobility.

If the Prussian reformers had been successful, and Germany had been united around Schiller’s beautiful ideas, how different would the 19th and 20th Centuries have been!

The Romantic Counterrevolution

But, the evil spirit of Napoleon worked in more than one way. Already, in May 1796, a direct counteroperation to the Weimar Classic was set up in Jena, starting with Novalis (his

FIGURE 3



August Wilhelm Schlegel

FIGURE 4



Friedrich Schlegel

real name was Hardenburg) (**Figure 2**), the Schlegel brothers (**Figures 3 and 4**), and Ludwig Tieck (**Figure 5**).³ They tried to counter Schiller especially, but, beyond that, the Classical method of thinking in every respect. They replaced the foundation of the European identity in the Greek Classic and the Italian Renaissance, by focussing, instead, on the Middle Ages and a Romanticized, fictitious, universal imperial rule, which Novalis first described in his *Christianity or Europe*.

This was directed against reason and cognition. The Romantics revived, instead, a magic, demonic world outlook. With an irrational longing for death, they rejected the idea of a universally binding morality, as well as any form in art, and they focussed, instead, on originality, novelty, ecstasy—that is what would count.

They adored the accidental, laziness, and they had a morbid fascination with insanity and the criminal character, in their poetry. Instead of focussing on the ancient Greek mythologies, they rediscovered the Nordic mythologies, which would later fascinate Wagner and the Nazis.

If these people had only written rotten poetry, which they did, it would have been bad, but it would not have been devas-

tating. Unfortunately, they also had very concrete political programs, and they turned quickly into what became known as “the political Romantic,” which shaped the policies of the Restoration period after the Congress of Vienna, and much of history of Germany to come—unfortunately, not only in Germany.

Exemplary were the political ideas of Friedrich Schlegel, who fought against Schiller, and was a hard-core agent of the political Romantic, working directly with Metternich, later. His definition of what a nation should be, was quite different from what Schiller, Humboldt, and Stein had wanted. He wrote: “The older, purer, less mixed the stock is, the richer are the customs. And the more the customs and true devotion to these, the more it will be a nation based on blood relationship.” Blood and Soil has its roots, exactly here. “Freedom is defined as the elimination of strange [foreign] blood, and the maximal maintenance of tradition.” This was the first, specifically conservative, definition of a national principle. “The more conservative a nation is, the more it is a nation,” he said.

Well, obviously, for him, class society was welcomed, and the vital power of the state, he saw *only* in the nobility. For him, the rule of the nobility was nearly identical with his notion of nationality. Indeed, this was not a sovereign nation, but an imperial rule, where basically, everything was under

3. See Helga Zepp-LaRouche, “Only a New Classical Period Can Save Humanity from a Dark Age,” *EIR*, June 9, 2000.

FIGURE 5



Ludwig Tieck

the rule of a king. But, above the king was a king of kings—namely, the emperor. So, only the nation which should supply the emperor, should be the strongest.

It is clear, that these ideas reflect the dominating event of this period, namely, Napoleonic imperial rule (Figure 6). But, especially after 1810, they developed the notion that what was needed, was a *true* imperial rule, against the false imperial rule of Napoleon, which was only based on selfish greed for power, and therefore, they wanted a counter-emperor, namely, one based on ethics and religious ideas.

Now, these were clearly the roots and preconditions for the Holy Alliance and the Restoration period: universalism, where you don't have sovereignty of the nation-state, but, across nations, an alliance between the class of nobility. It is like the upper 1% of globalization today, who are jet-setting from New York to London, to the Côte d'Azur and other places, and who have quite intensive ties among each other.

Naturally, this was completely at the expense of *true* sovereignty of the nation, and therefore, the argument that the Romantics contributed anything positive to the idea of nationhood, is completely ridiculous.

A person somewhere in the middle, Fichte, with his "Speeches to the German Nation" and other lectures, on the one side expressed the vision of a constitutional, representative state. And, in his theory of the state, he created the vision

of freedom and equality for everybody who has a human face, without victimization of the majority of the people as slaves, without which the old states could not exist. But, his philosophical method was more mixed.

One year after Fichte, Adam Müller, the Privy Councillor in Weimar, lectured in 1808-09 in Dresden about statecraft, which, unfortunately, had a very lasting influence. He categorically rejected the existence of natural law, and only recognized positive law. Already in 1790, the English parliamentarian Edmund Burke had written his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, which caused a big uproar in all of Europe among the reactionary forces. It was the first systematic attack on the idea of the constitution based on natural law, and he defended the irrational elements of tradition, instinct, and demanded respect for the jungle of the accidental, which would determine both the individual life and that of the state.

Genz, Metternich's goon, translated this, already in 1793, into German, and Adam Müller blew exactly into the same horn, by emphasizing the historically determined process. Naturally, the sovereign rights of the individual were eradicated. Otherwise Müller elaborated the Romantic model of the state, but also the conceptions of Niebuhr, were the food of Romanticism; he defined cultural and political life as the result of the *Volksgeist*—the people's spirit—which naturally supplied them the rationalization to justify the oligarchical powers to be, and their methods of rule, since everything was due to the instinctive working of the *Volksgeist*.

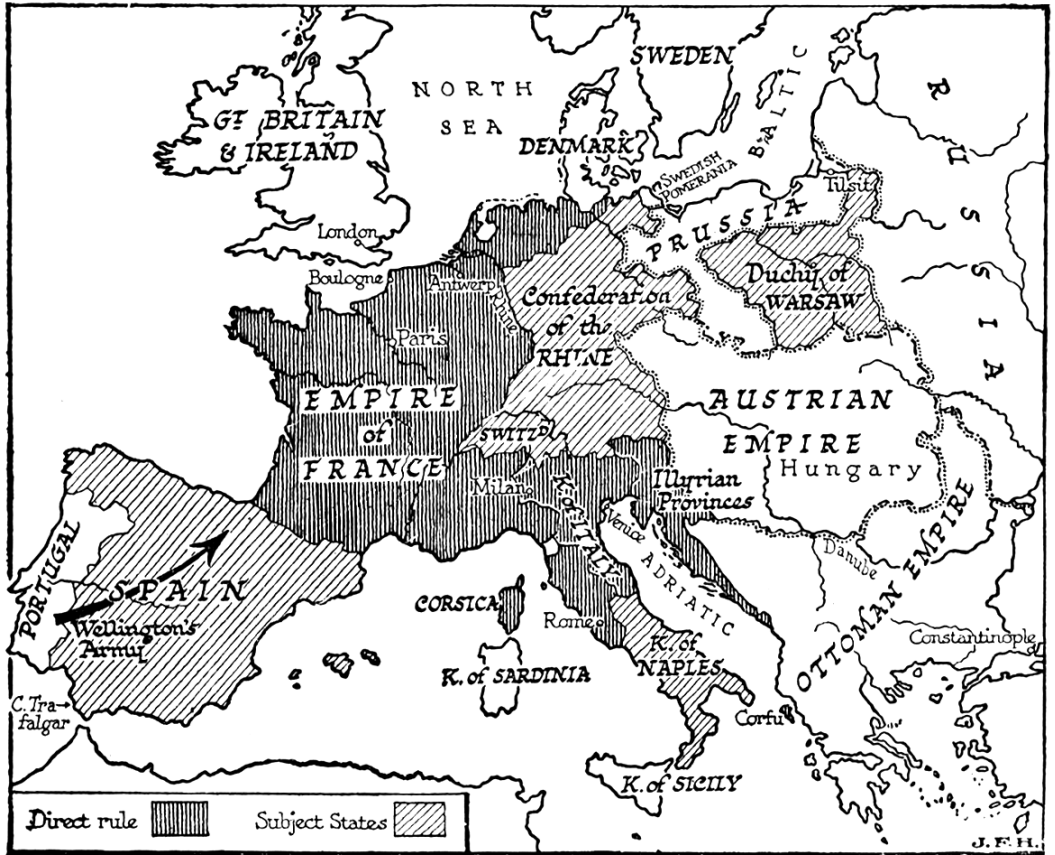
This Romantic conception in Schelling's teaching about the unconscious development of the absolute spirit, made possible the development of the historical law school of Savigny. All law, according to Savigny, is the result of customs and popular belief, and not the privilege of the law-giver. The most blunt, was the argumentation of the Swiss, Karl Ludwig von Haller, who had a gigantic influence on the political Romantic, especially after 1815. Brutally, he praised the fortune of those in power, who have all power and wealth, and can enjoy them. He preached a de facto Calvinist cult of success, in which ideas have no role, but *real* power alone counts.

The Clash of Two Worldviews

So, these were the two world outlooks: the reformers, on the one side, and the counterrevolutionaries, for whom even Frederick the Great was too progressive, and who wanted to go back to a feudal class society. So, these two sides stood against each other, and each side fought to use the shock triggered by the catastrophe of Jena and Auerstadt.

It was not only a theoretical controversy. Müller actively intervened in the efforts of the Prussian nobility, in their intrigues against Hardenburg and vom Stein, and soon, he became the leading propagandist for the aristocratic feudal interests. Together with Achim von Arnim, he founded, in 1811,

FIGURE 6
**Napoleon's
 Empire, About
 1810**



the Christian-German Table Society, a gathering of Romantic poets, philosophers, aristocrats, officers, and jurists, many of whom would later become important members of the government of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, who was called the “Fouquet King.” Fouquet was one of the worst Romantics, writing these terrible novellas, soap operas, about knights; and, this King modelled his kingdom exactly on the writings of Fouquet. And, much of this was, unfortunately, then realized, after 1814, when, for example, Savigny became the Prussian Legislation Minister (1842-46), where he was, unfortunately, able to realize his rotten ideas.

So, the issue between the political representatives of the Classical and the Romantic poets, could not have been clearer. On the one side, the sovereign, representative, constitutional system, based on natural law, where each citizen is equipped with inalienable rights and equal before the law; and, on the other side, the backwardly oriented, feudal class society, with privileges and power only for a few.

To study exactly, how this battle by the humanists was lost, a loss that would finally result in two world wars in the 20th Century, is absolutely essential, if World War III is to be prevented.

The Beginning of the End for Napoleon

So, what happened to Napoleon, after I said that he was at the peak of his power? There came a turn in his fate. Russia, with which Napoleon had worked out a secret deal at Tilsit, started to distance itself from him, because it had its own imperial designs. Austria prepared for war. Prussia was regenerated through the influence of the Prussian reformers. England withstood the blockade.

And, in Spain, there started a national upheaval against Napoleon, where Goya became the painter for the Spanish patriots, who saw Napoleon as the rapist of their country (Figure 7). And, eventually, a national junta declared war against him. Napoleon, himself, had to run to Madrid in 1804. Madrid capitulated, but, at the same time, everywhere guerrilla wars and people’s wars started. Spain turned out, for Napoleon, to be a barrel with no bottom, costing enormous amounts of money and soldiers, and instead of bringing in the loot, it cost more and more.

In 1809, Austria declared war against Napoleon, which it lost. But, in the context of this war, Napoleon lost his first battle in an open field, because his best soldiers now were in Spain, and the new recruits were not at the same level. It is

FIGURE 7



Francisco Goya, "To rise and to fall," from the *Caprichos*.

reported that Napoleon started to cry.

On Oct. 14, 1809, there was the Peace of Schönbrunn, in which Austria was reduced to a secondary power.

But, the Spanish example excited patriots everywhere, especially because the burdens for everybody became much worse than even under the old regimes. Soon, the ruin of all layers, in all states, occurred. Jerome, Napoleon's brother, King of Westphalia, wrote to him: "Be afraid of the people who have nothing to lose."

In the meantime, Prussian reformer Scharnhorst bypassed the increased quota of the allowed size of the army, by recycling recruits through short, intensive training, with the same methods Lazare Carnot had used earlier in France. Stein and others became completely enthusiastic about the Spanish example. Stein wrote a letter about this, which was captured; the courier was arrested, and Napoleon demanded not only the ouster of Stein, but his exile. This also turned out to be a severe mistake, because Stein became the hero of the national

resistance, and then went to Russia, where he was instrumental in designing the plans to defeat Napoleon.

Also, inside France, itself, Napoleon began to lose support, because the number of casualties, the numbers of sons who were lost to the mothers, of husbands who were lost to the wives, became bigger and bigger. And, actually, the number of casualties was made a state secret, because it was feared that this would erode their power.

Napoleon, by losing more forces, especially in Spain, had to increase taxes—which was not exactly popular. Between 1810 and 1811, French industry went into a big crisis. The banks collapsed and panic started to spread. There was a shortage of bread, after the failed harvest of 1811, and plundering of mills and bakeries occurred. Depression and unemployment spread.

The internal repression got worse. The prisons filled up with political prisoners. Napoleon wanted to consolidate his dynasty, and Fouché, the Police Minister, had to bring the news to Josephine that she would be divorced. Napoleon married, instead, the Hapsburg daughter of the Emperor, Marie Louise, who, in 1811, bore him a son, whom Napoleon gave the title "King of Naples"—like, you know, "Governor of Texas."

On June 16, 1811, he made a report on the state of Empire, which was complete propaganda. And, actually, if you compare what Napoleon said about France, knowing what the real situation was, with the recent State of the Union addresses, you can see a great parallel. It was a complete "hooray" speech.

The irony was, that, the more Napoleon increased the control and repression, the more he lost control. Because the resistance grew in France, Holland, Switzerland, and in the Rhine Alliance states. Even the princes of the so-called Rhine Alliance states, whom Napoleon had forced to cooperate, even they realized that their sovereignty was reduced to almost nothing. So, brother Jerome wrote, "The explosive tension has reached the highest level."

Also, the tension between Napoleon and Tsar Alexander escalated. But, Jerome warned, if Napoleon were to make a new war, there would be a revolt in the German states. The military warned, if Napoleon were to conduct a war against Russia, while the Spanish war was not yet won, this would end in a catastrophe. But, Napoleon was such an arrogant dictator, that he would not accept any criticism.

The Russian Campaign

On June 24, 1812, he declared war against Russia. And, this overstretched the arch. When Napoleon started the Russian campaign, he miscalculated completely.

Coming back to the question of globalization, and today, being confronted with the new empire: Napoleon's efforts to gain world hegemony, remind me of how the international financial powers decided to react to the outbreak of the global financial crisis in Asia in 1997, by imposing, recklessly, the

IMF, and forcing down programs in Southeast Asia, which violated the fundamental self-interests of these nations, *and* escalating the impeachment against President Clinton, at the same time.

As I presented elsewhere,⁴ the idea to lure Napoleon into the depths of Russia, and then pursue a policy of scorched earth, so that the combination of the harsh Russian winter and the lack of supplies would eventually annihilate the Grande Armée, were the designs of Schiller's friends Ludwig von Wolzogen and the Prussian reformers around Stein—whom Napoleon had, foolishly, driven to Russia—as well as of Scharnhorst and Gneissenu, who had studied Schiller's historical descriptions of the Thirty Years War and the separation of the Netherlands from Spain.

According to the plan of von Wolzogen, the French troops would always march into empty space, and Russian troops would not engage in battle. Wolzogen, in a very important memorandum, "How to Conduct the War against Napoleon," said that Russia could only win through a system of retreat, and the effect of the space and time, from the standpoint of expanse. This was exactly what General Phuel, Scharnhorst, Knesebeck, and others implemented. Wolzogen stated: "Napoleon will remain the conquerer, as long as there is a spark of life within him. No state, no country, will be safe from him, in all of Europe. The hour will come, sooner or later, when the fight to prevail, and for independence, will have to be fought. Is it not wise to mobilize all forces to prepare for this life-and-death fight?"

Then, he said, what was needed, was to make the operational line as long as possible, which already follows out of the sentence, that, "against a genial enemy, one wants to avoid battle. That is, against such an enemy, the defense is preferred over the offense. But a defensive war is based on motion. Therefore, I regard, in this case, the operational lines, more as lines of retreat, and demand, that in order to gain the necessary time for action, these lines should be as long as possible." Then, he focussed on the problem of requisition, because Napoleon needed the loot of the country around him to feed his army. And, Wolzogen said, "Never before, has a commander had such big armies, and never so many theaters of war" (just like globalization, today). "In any case, his system is overextended, and is becoming more so every day, to simultaneously rule in such a despotic way in Portugal, Italy, and many other places, for which his forces are not adequate, especially since he never watches his means, and he always takes the next best ones, regardless whether they will be destroyed for generations or forever. So, therefore, this general system of ruin, carries within it the seed of its destruction, and it will ruin itself, in the end. His rule only exists, because of the belief in his invincibility, and it will break down, once that belief is gone."

4. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, "Schiller and the Liberation Wars against Napoleon," *EIR*, Dec. 4, 1998.

Now, Wolzogen's work contributed to the awakening of the patriotism of the Russian people. And, this awakening of patriotism occurred in more and more countries: In Spain, it already had occurred; it started in Austria; it escalated in Prussia and in the other German states.

Napoleon's march toward Moscow was his demise. . . . And, fanatics today, who are pushing NATO expansion into East and Central Asia, and are playing around with Taiwan and other places: They should better study this overextension of Napoleon.

After the Battle of Borodino, on Sept. 7, 1812, it should have been clear to Napoleon, that what he was encountering was the repulse of the people, against their arch-enemy, fighting for their very existence. All the people he had subjugated, started to rise up. Napoleon, who had planned to march on to conquer India, after taking Russia, instead, felt now, sitting in burnt-down Moscow, that he had to put feelers out, to see whether a peace negotiation were possible—sort of like C. Fred Bergsten offering the Asians a larger role in world affairs, after they had already organized the Chiang Mai initiative, in the vain hope that this trick would lure them to stay within the system.

The Liberation Wars in Germany

Now, Napoleon, however, had to retreat. This retreat developed into a flight, ending with the annihilation of the French troops. But, Napoleon did not, quite yet, give up. In the following Liberation Wars in Germany, the whole German nation stood up. And, indeed, there was never a higher level of patriotism and self-activation to fight for a representative constitution and national unity, than during these wars.

Napoleon had chosen the allied Saxony as an operational field for this war. And he won the Battles of Lützen, Gross-Göschchen, Bauzen, and Wuzen. Here you see, as the patriotism grew, more people started to make caricatures, and here they show Napoleon and his dogs of war going into battle.

So, temporarily, the Russian and the Prussian armies had to retreat to Silesia. A cease-fire was agreed upon, and the problem then was, that Napoleon got into a real dilemma: He could only achieve peace, if he would give up dominion over Europe, with the risk of also losing control within France itself. Or, get involved in a fight against the combined European forces of Russia, Prussia, Austria, England, and Sweden, which he had no longer the forces to combat.

Things started to fall apart.

The English beat Joseph Bonaparte under Wellington at Victoria. Spain was lost, and the Spanish troops were about to cross the Pyrenee Mountains. The King of Naples, Napoleon's brother-in-law, tried arrangements with Napoleon's opponents. The Swedes landed in Pomerania, and the coalition formed three armies against Napoleon: the Bohemian army, under Schwarzenberg; the Silesian army under Blücher; the northern army under Bernadotte. And it came to

the Battles of Katzbach, Kulm, Nollendorf, Brossbeeren, and Dennewitz. The Rhine Alliance dissolved, and, basically, changed sides.

Then, it came to the famous Battle of the People, near Leipzig, on Oct. 16, 1813. This was incredible carnage. Napoleon had 200,000 troops; the coalition had 300,000 troops, who formed a ring around Napoleon's troops. He wanted to break out, but failed. The Bohemian army went into an offensive; Napoleon counterattacked and failed. In the North, there was Blücher, who beat Marmont. Blücher was a very funny general, who would always say, "Attack, attack, attack!" He was very famous for that.

Now, on Oct. 18, the coalition armies attacked with a far superior power, and, in the evening, the defeat of Napoleon was evident. The next morning, he ordered a retreat. So, when the allied forces stormed Leipzig, they only found the French rearguard. Napoleon lost, in this one battle, 80,000 men, and 120,000 went into flight.

Metternich said, "We have won the battle of the world." But, it was not Metternich who won the battle; it was the heroic fight of the patriotic forces, who did. Vom Stein commented, "There lies the most terrible construction on the floor, cemented together through blood and tears of so many millions, erected through the most outrageous tyranny. From one end to the next in all of Germany, it is now shouted out that 'Napoleon is a rogue and the enemy of the human species!' ". . .

Now comes the crucial question: How did the ingenious way in which the Prussian reformers outwitted Napoleon in the Russian campaign, inspired by Schiller; and how, despite the profound patriotic upheaval of the entire population in the Liberation War, and not least, the heroic Battle of the People in Leipzig—the Liberation Wars were not just a war movement, but a true constitutional movement for national unity and the representative republican system—why did these forces not win? Why is what followed, instead, the most disgusting Holy Alliance and Restoration period?

Let's look, first quickly, at what happened to Napoleon. After the defeat of Leipzig, Napoleon went back to France, defeated. Tsar Alexander wanted to march after him, while Metternich was already considering the role of France in the desired balance of power, including a possible Bonapartist dynasty, and insisted on a peace offer, which Napoleon did not accept.

Eventually, the armies of Europe defeated Napoleon's troops, and Paris fell into the hands of the Coalition, while Napoleon was still 25 miles away.

Here you have a defeated Napoleon, quite depressed, sitting there (**Figure 8**). He tried several suicide attempts, and eventually had to retreat into exile in Elba, while in Vienna, two emperors, five kings, and 200 princes started the Congress of Vienna.

After ten months, upon receiving reports of the growing dissatisfaction of the French population with the new Bour-

FIGURE 8



The defeated Napoleon, March 31, 1814, upon the entry of Coalition armies into Paris. Painting by Paul Delaroche.

bon King, Louis XVIII, Napoleon escaped from Elba and, in February 1815, this caused the Coalition forces, which had already gotten into territorial squabbles in Vienna, to again unite against him.

Napoleon's final defeat occurred on June 16, 1815, at Waterloo. And, finally, his last exile was St. Helena, where he died relatively miserably. . . .

Tragedy: The Holy Alliance

So, back in Vienna, it was especially Castlereagh from England, and Metternich, who were responsible for the terrible outcome of the Vienna Congress. They maneuvered and intrigued, so that neither the role of the German state citizens and patriots would be considered, nor a unified German nation founded, even though this was very much on the table. The Russian superior commander, Kutuzov, had made, in the famous Proclamation of Kalisch, a passionate appeal

to the Germans (this was already in 1813, during the campaign), in which he named as one of the war goals, the liberation of Germany, the rebirth of the Reich, and he appealed to the princes *and* the peoples, and threatened the princes with destruction if they would behave unpatriotically.

But, it was exactly these patriotic state-citizens whom the princes feared, and intended to suppress. So, they hurried to redraw the map, according to the principles of balance of power. And to restore the old states. This is, by the way, the subject of a famous book by Henry Kissinger, who, naturally, admires the work of Castlereagh and Metternich, of keeping the peoples down. It's quite interesting, that Kissinger focuses exactly on the reactionary side of this whole process.

The Proclamation of the Holy Alliance by the three monarchs of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, signed on Sept. 26, 1815, was the direct expression of the Romantic ideas expressed by these poets before.

This balance of power on the continent, was the crucial precondition for the strengthening of British hegemony in the oceans and overseas. And, as centers for the new colonial British Empire, developed, especially: Canada, Australia, and East India. And, if you look, where the main controllers of globalization are, today, you have Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

On June 8, 1815, the so-called Bundesacte Treaty of Vienna, was signed by the so-called sovereign princes and free cities of Germany, which became binding law, through adoption in the record of the Congress. It severely limited the sovereignty of all of its members, since, among other things, it was forbidden to leave this alliance.

Stein wrote, in a memo, in June 1815: "The German will spill his blood for the quarrels alien to his country, and when his prince allies himself with France or England, he will be even obliged to fight against his own countrymen, if his prince has allied with his enemy. From such a flawed constitution, one can expect only a weak influence on the public well-being of Germany."

It became much worse: Under the Restoration, all the reforms undertaken by the Prussian reformers, were undone. In the infamous Carlsbad Decrees, even the writings of Schiller were outlawed. And, instead of the best state, with the greatest freedom of the individual, which Schiller and Humboldt had fought for, a deep cultural pessimism started to develop, and the reactionary ideas of the Romantics continued to influence, from Schopenhauer, to Nietzsche, Wagner, and the entire Conservative Revolution, from the Nazis to Universal Fascism, today.

Organize, Organize, Organize!

If you look at popular culture in the United States today, it is entirely Romantic. Hollywood focusses, always, on crime, on the perverse, on the criminal element, and soap operas are the same. Classics almost do not exist, or are un-

known.

The problem is, that the French Foreign Minister Védrine is right: There is a consensus in the two parties to run the world as a new Anglo-American empire. If this is not changed, indeed, this will cause a Dark Age, and possibly World War III.

What is needed, therefore, is a mass movement of people, who do not accept that the beautiful conception of the Founding Fathers, has been turned on its head; who will fight for a Constitutional government, and for the General Welfare of the people.

You see here a caricature, in which Napoleon blows soap bubbles, for his son. Soap bubbles are an old symbol of *vanitas*, vanity, and the ephemeral character of all earthly matters. While beautiful in form, and colorful—they pop, when you touch them. Now, all of you, as children, have played with soap bubbles, and you know how fragile these bubbles are. And, the title of this particular cartoon is, "Why All Empires Pop."

So, therefore, I want to leave you, and say that, in a slight variation of what Blücher said in the Liberation Wars, which was, "Attack, attack, attack!" I want to change that today, and say, "If you want to save civilization, from the danger of a terrible destruction, like Blücher, say: 'Organize, organize, organize!'"

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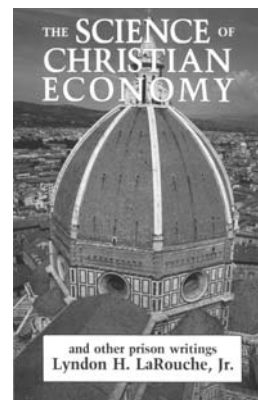
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