

# LaRouche's Economics Text Is Now in Croatian

by Elke Fimmen

On Jan. 24, the German Schiller Institute presented the Croatian translation of Lyndon LaRouche's groundbreaking mathematical economics textbook, *So, You Wish To Learn All About Economics?* before more than 70 guests in the Croatian Journalists House in Zagreb. Attending the event were guests from academia, high-level representatives of banks, trade unions, parties, and the press, including the state news agency HINA. One week before, the conservative weekly *Hrvatsko Slovo* had published an extensive review. The book was published first in English in 1984, followed by translations into many other languages, including German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, Russian, and Ukrainian. In particular, it has had a decisive influence on the shaping of the scientific-economic debate in Russia.

The event took place as Croatia was plunging into the midst of a deepening economic, social, and political turmoil. People sense that nation's future is "Argentine," as it has been forced to surrender to brutal International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies. One day before the Schiller Institute event, the IMF mission chief to Zagreb forbade the government to continue construction of the Zagreb-Split highway (see *EIR*, March 8, 2002), allegedly because the budget deficit is too big. This conflict is provoking a popular uproar, because the government tried to mobilize the optimism of the people around this project, which, since its start in 1968, has been aborted again and again for political and budget reasons.

The release of LaRouche's book constituted an excellent conceptual rallying point for the growing movement in Croatia, which demands an end to IMF policies and a future for the country. It was clear to everybody, that the questions discussed are of fundamental and existential importance: Is the economy of a people dictated by monetarist criteria, leading to the destruction of nations, or is politics oriented toward the Common Good and the development of a physical basis for the long-term survival of the population?

## Potential Relative Population-Density

After a beautiful musical introduction by two young Croatian violinists, Michael Liebig, director of *EIR*'s German office, spoke, situating the book in the context of the systemic breakdown of the international financial system, which is resulting in political and military confrontation. Attendees were gripped by his detailed account of the chronology of events on Sept. 11. The ideological representatives of the imperial-

utopian faction in the United States, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Samuel Huntington, are no strangers to Croatians, whose names are intimately connected with the "Clash of Civilizations" scenario acted out in the Balkans since 1991.

The book's translator, Stjepan Corkovic, a longtime collaborator of the Schiller Institute in Croatia, and an engineer by profession, stressed that real criteria for conducting economic policies are needed. He elaborated on some key concepts of the book, such as the increase of potential relative population-density, and the central role of scientific and technological progress for the increase of productivity of national economies. Politicians pretend that everything is in order, while in reality the economic and social fabric collapses.

Senior economist Ivan Maricic, who heads an important retirees association, said that LaRouche's book corresponds to the interests of Croatia against the autocratic IMF. He sharply attacked the neo-Malthusian ideas of the Club of Rome and its congruence with IMF conditionalities' destruction of the social and health-care fabric. Faris Nanic, a journalist and engineer, who assisted with the translation, attacked the efforts of the geopolitical war faction to use the Sept. 11 attacks as a pretext for war against Islam and a global crisis. The economic breakdown must be solved according to the principles of physical economy, Nanic said.

## The Exception to 'Mainstream Economics'

During the discussion, two prominent Zagreb economics professors commented on the book. Professor Bilusic, of the University of Zagreb and former adviser to the Indian government, had read the book while in India, in its English original 15 years ago, and expressed his joy about the newly published Croatian version. He called LaRouche the founder of a new economic theory, and praised his work for the creation of a new world economic order. He recommended that the book become obligatory study at the faculty of economics. Prof. Zvonimir Baletic, former dean of the Economic Institute in Zagreb, described how ashamed he feels about the present state of economic science. How could it happen, that prevailing academic teaching has departed so greatly from LaRouche's method of physical economy? Nowhere today is one able to learn about the importance of G.W. Leibniz, Friedrich List, and Alexander Hamilton for the science of economics. It has instead degenerated to "pure ideology and simple justification for the market." Professor Baletic praised LaRouche's forecasting record and characterized him as a contemporary exception to "mainstream economics."

Typical of the mood was the comment of one economist, who said that she could hardly express her gratitude enough, because the book "created a sense of optimism, that there are people, who know about reality, and who act upon it." In particular, she valued LaRouche's broad conceptual approach, "which includes the cultural and social dimension of life, and puts the creative power of people in the center."