

Down with Olympus! Up with the Galaxy!

Composed some three millennia before our time, Homer's great epic poem, *The Iliad*—originally sung from memory by generation after generation, and later written down by the students of Plato's Academy, then translated into every literate language on Earth—offers us today perhaps the most powerful condemnation of what Lyndon LaRouche calls “the oligarchical principle,” and the madness of war.

Read today, in the English translation by George Chapman (immortalized by Keats in his famous sonnet), one cannot help but be struck by the freshness of Homer's polemic. Like today's “Masters of the Universe,” our own Gods of Olympus—though their headquarters be such places as London, New York, Brussels, etc.—the Olympians viewed mankind as mere slaves, fit only to do their bidding, and be sacrificed on the battlefield for their amusement. As Apollo tells Diomed in Book 5, “The race of Gods is farre above men creeping here below.”

The very cause of the Trojan War, which destroyed two great cities—Athens and Troy—was a frivolous beauty contest among the gods, that led to ten years of brutal, bloody warfare between the Greeks and Trojans. The conflict wiped out the leading strata among both the military and civilian population of both cities, as described in gory detail by Homer: the husbandman, the architect, the shipbuilder, the carpenter—all were killed in the war, as, of course, were the women and children of Troy, or taken as slaves.

The Iliad and its sequel *The Odyssey* were composed circa 900 B.C., as the Greeks were emerging from a long dark age; the poems were meant as a warning to any future civilization against the insanity of allowing men's affairs to

be dominated by irrational gods, also known as oligarchs. This is a warning we would do well to heed today.

We find ourselves, now in the 21st Century, playing out the same mass insanity as did the people of Homer's epic poem. We allow the self-appointed imperial rulers to destroy our nation, itself the heir to the Platonic Republic of Athens, along with all the other nations on Earth. We sit back and watch as long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and new wars like those threatened against Iran and Syria, bleed away our national treasure and degrade our people. We watch as the powerful U.S. economy is reduced to a junkheap, while our “leaders” squabble over which segment of the population is to be sacrificed to the budget knife. We stand by as the so-called Presidential candidates—both Republican and the incumbent President—push policies designed by our enemies, which will result in mass death, and even thermonuclear war.

Wouldn't Zeus and company be pleased!

But we need not adhere to the oligarchs' script. The means to end, at long last, their power over us, is at hand. Our political movement has placed the solutions on the table, including in this present issue of *EIR*: Man need no longer be bound to planet Earth. The entire galaxy invites us to explore and extend our reach to its furthest regions.

As Helga Zepp-LaRouche expressed it in her Feb. 11 webcast: “I'm convinced that while we look at the possible extinction of civilization, that if we get our act together now, we could also be the authors of a new era of mankind, that we could build a true Renaissance, where we leave oligarchism, as a childhood disease, behind us, never to come back. Why don't we go for that?”

Why not, indeed.