

Drought, Hunger, and Now Water Wars, Break Out in Mexico

by Dennis Small

Aug. 6—The southwestern United States and northern Mexico are being ravaged by the worst drought and heat wave in 70 years. Up to 85% of all U.S. agricultural production is experiencing drought conditions, while in Mexico, two out of three hectares are affected. Mexico's all-important corn crop has been especially hard hit, forcing the country to try to import vast amounts from the United States, where there is also a shortage, and where financial speculation has driven up its price by 50% in July alone. In Mexico, 10 million head of cattle have died from the drought since it began more than a year ago, according to Congressman Gerardo Sánchez Garcí, a leader of the National Peasant Confederation (CNC). And in the impoverished north-central region of the country, the drought is driving the population to hunger, despair ... and beyond.

Farmers and citizens in different parts of Mexico are fighting each other over diminishing water supplies, drilling illegal wells, and even taking up arms. The first reported death from this descent into the Dark Ages occurred on June 7 in the state of **Durango**, where an 8-year-old girl was shot when her family was trying to take water from a disputed well. Others in the state are defending their water rights with machetes. Neither corn nor beans for domestic consumption are available in the state. Infant malnutrition is up 50%, with Indian communities hit hardest. There are 1,200 municipalities in Durango entirely without water. In some, residents have to walk two hours a day in the sweltering heat to get two buckets of water from the nearest stream to carry home—which lasts them a day. The cow cemetery in one municipality is one kilometer wide.

In the state of **Nuevo León**, 50,000 head of cattle have died, 10% of the state's herd. Some crops are at 35% of their normal levels.

In **Zacatecas**, cattle-growers say they have lost

150,000 head. Bean production, a staple in the diet, is down to a mere 25% of normal. The reservoirs of dams are at 17% of capacity.

In neighboring **Chihuahua**, only 64,000 hectares of beans have been planted, barely more than half the usual 117,000 hectares. Warfare has broken out between a 50,000-strong Mennonite farming community, and producers from the leftist El Barzón and the Democratic Peasant Front, who are accusing the Mennonites of illegally drilling wells and building dams. Barzón activists, with support from the official government water agency Conagua—which is run by radical environmentalist and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) errand boy José Luis Luege Tamargo—have so far destroyed four Mennonite dams; and they are threatening to destroy between 23 and 53 more, as well as to forcibly close 200 of their wells. Mennonite elders report that their youth are arming, and that “the situation is getting out of control.” The elders, true to their religion, say they don't want bloodshed, but they report that their younger leaders are preparing for violence.

Now take a step back—both geographically, and in time.

The López Portillo Legacy

It's hard not to notice that the latest U.S. government “North American Drought Monitor” map (**Figure 1**) corresponds closely to the area of the Great American Desert singled out decades ago by Lyndon LaRouche for major water and other infrastructure projects (**Figure 2**). Had those great projects—NAWAPA (North American Water and Power Alliance), PLHINO (Northwest Hydraulic Plan), and PLHIGON (Northern Gulf Hydraulic Plan)—been implemented in the U.S. and Mexico, *none* of what we describe above would be occurring today. During a

FIGURE 1

North American Drought Monitor

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<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/nadm.html>

Analysts:
 Canada - Trevor Hadwen
 Duwayne Chobani
 Richard Rieger
 Mexico - Reynaldo Pascual
 Adeline A. Banil
 Mark Svoboda*
 U.S.A. - Rich Tanker

(* Responsible for collecting analysis
 input & assembling the NA-DMI map)

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts
 A = Agriculture
 H = Hydrological (Water)



The Drought Monitor
 focuses on broad-scale
 conditions. Local
 conditions may vary.
 See accompanying text
 for a general summary.

Regions in northern Canada may
 not be as accurate as other regions
 due to limited information.

visit a decade ago, in November 2002, to the northern Mexican state of Coahuila, LaRouche emphasized the need to bring water and other infrastructure to the Great American Desert, and during that trip he commissioned an *EIR* programmatic study which was published in May 2003, under the title “Vladimir Vernadsky and the Biogeochemical Development of the Great American Desert” (*EIR*, May 9, 2003).

But it was two decades before that, in late 1982, that Mexico actually lost the crucial battle for its development and sovereignty, from which it has never recovered. Today’s conditions are the direct consequence of that defeat, when President José López Portillo (1976-82) was politically crushed by global financier forces that then orchestrated the takeover of the country by the international drug trade.

When López Portillo assumed the Presidency, Mexico was about 80% food self-sufficient (albeit at a poor level of consumption), and in 1980, his government established the Mexican Food System (SAM), whose stated objective was “a policy of self-sufficiency in basic foods, above all cereals and oilseeds.” A detailed study of the country’s physical-economic capabilities was carried out, and “it was determined that self-sufficiency can be achieved in corn and beans

by 1982, and take firm steps by opening up new land to cultivation to achieve it by 1985 for the other basic products where there are deficits.”

Instead, the money-centered policies of speculation, globalization, and free trade which López Portillo and LaRouche fought together to destroy, have brought about the current collapse of the world financial system, and have also destroyed Mexico’s physical economy. The country today has to import 40-50% of its food. Out of some 115 million Mexicans, about half live below the poverty line, while 28 million live in “food poverty”—i.e., they go hungry some or all of the

time. Another 40 million face malnutrition. The National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy reports that the number of poor grew by 12.5 million between 2006 and 2010, and Mexico’s 10% poorest families lost 15.5% of their income. According to the official statistical agency INEGI, over the last six years, the price of tortillas, a staple, has increased by 74%; beans by 72%; and eggs by 66%—and there is no end in sight.

In tandem with this physical-economic blowout, the British Empire’s drug trade has consummated a virtual coup d’état in the country.

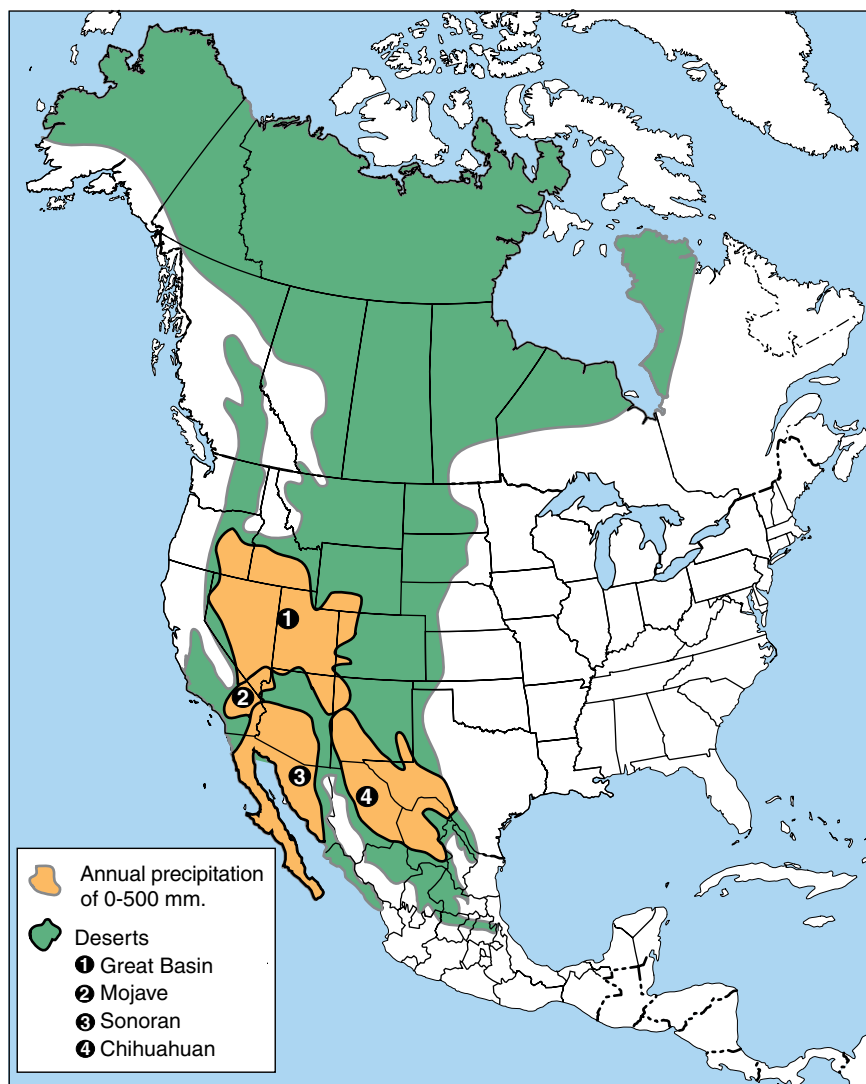
LaRouche, in an Aug. 3, 2012 discussion with members of the LaRouche movement in Mexico City, discussed his close relationship with President López Portillo to bring about a radical reorganization of the world financial system:

“I was deeply involved with López Portillo, and it was not just being involved with López Portillo, but that López Portillo agreed with us on a mission. That mission was politically defeated. The Mexico situation [today] is defined by the crushing of Mexico at the time López Portillo had made all the *right* decisions.

“Why is Mexico in trouble? Why has Mexico suf-

FIGURE 2

The Great American Desert



Source: *EIR*.

ferred what it's suffered since then? What happened to Mexico as the result of the successful crushing of Lopez Portillo?... We were simply overpowered. And we were overpowered because people who should have been patriots of their country, were not. And when you see the drug problem which is destroying Mexico—and that is the key issue, because the whole question of the agricultural questions and so forth are a product of the drug problem and the drug system—and unless we can crush the drug interests in Mexico, you cannot win anything in Mexico.”

“You cannot save Mexico from Mexico alone,” La-

Rouche elaborated. “You have to save Mexico through an international effort to defeat what is behind the drug mafia. . . . We’ve lost the war to the drug mafia, unless we bring into play forces which are beyond that. . . .

“Now the time has come where the only thing that can defeat that enemy is defeating that international force.”

Fascist Environmentalism

The international force that La-Rouche identified, the British Empire’s financial oligarchy, is well represented inside Mexico, and in addition to pushing drugs, it promotes extreme environmentalism to intentionally aggravate the crisis and promote population reduction.

Take the case of Jose@a Luis Luege Tamargo, the agent of the British monarchy’s genocidalist WWF, who heads Mexico’s official National Water Commission, Conagua, and who peddles the fraud of man-made global warming and climate change to justify sharp cut-backs in water consumption. There must be a “drastic change in public policy,” Luege told regional experts from 20 countries of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which met in Mexico City July 23-25, particularly regarding the use of fuels. There must be no

nuclear energy, Luege demanded; only solar, wind, and bio-fuels are “viable.” Mexico must “adapt” to scarcity, and states and municipalities must be forced to “respect the use of the soil,” and ration consumption of natural resources and water. Luege went on to lie that, as a result of global warming, the temperature over a large part of Mexico will rise by 0.5-1.0°C over the next 10 years. “If we don’t change, the effects will be grave.”

The official policy of Conagua, as dictated by the WWF, with which Luege has coordinated policy closely for years, is to prohibit water transfers among

basins altogether—presumably because they violate the rights of Mother Nature. This amounts to an outright ban on any infrastructure projects that could actually address Mexico’s water crisis. And where bans and prohibitions don’t work, local Conagua offices have reportedly been given the green light to physically *destroy* existing infrastructure, such as the case of Conagua’s alliance against the Mennonite farmers in Chihuahua. An angry governor of that state, César Duarte, told *El Heraldo* newspaper that Conagua has become “an instrument of political control,” demanding that producers and water consumers embrace a “culture of conservation and self-restraint in order to enforce sustainability.”

A Renewed Call for the PLHIGON

Not everyone in Mexico is falling for the environmentalist insanity and induced pessimism. For example, the incoming head of the Infrastructure Committee of the National Conference of Governors, Jorge Herrera of Durango, in a July 27 press conference, threw down the gauntlet to the newly elected Mexican President and Congress:

“We have to bring water from [the southern states of] Chiapas and Tabasco, where, unfortunately, a large number of cubic meters of water are wasted because of its abundance, to the states of the center-north. . . . If these droughts are recurrent, we have to think of a solution that goes to the root of the problem. . . . These are long-term projects, but it will be a challenge facing the new federal government and the new Chamber of Deputies, to carry out studies and make investments. . . . We have to get going; although they are long-term projects, they can be the solution. Their cost is nothing compared to the lack of water and the dramatic consequences.”

Governor Herrera explained that his proposal was to build “aqueducts, which would help to fundamentally mitigate the grave problem of drought which the region is suffering, and which is leaving millions of people defenseless.” He added that this project would be a “bridge” to unite Mexico’s regions, and bring greater economic growth, employment, and welfare to families, and that five regional meetings would be held in different states during August.

Although Herrera didn’t say it, what he is proposing is the long-standing Northern Gulf Hydraulic Plan, the PLHIGON, the sister-plan of the PLHINO, both of which have been championed by the LaRouche move-

ment in Mexico for at least three decades (see article below).

The challenge issued by Herrera—who is a member of the PRI party, whose candidate Enrique Peña Nieto won the July 1 Presidential election—is more than timely. Those elections brought the country to a crossroads in its battle to regain the sovereignty and development it lost after López Portillo’s defeat.

Preliminary official results of the election—which await confirmation by the Federal Electoral Tribunal, which is reviewing charges of voting irregularities—gave the PRI’s Peña Nieto about 38% of the vote, against 32% for Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and 25% for the PAN’s Josefina Vázquez Mota. These results are a particularly stunning blow for the PAN party, which ruled Mexico for 12 years under Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón, and reflect a clamor from the population to return to some semblance of sovereignty and economic survival—both of which have been lost in Mexico to a British-run coup d’état as a result of a 30-year process of warfare.

The coup was launched with the 1982 defeat of López Portillo. It was then ground into the souls of Mexico’s citizens with a string of high-profile political assassinations, conducted at the end of the Presidency of the drug-linked, Bush-allied Carlos Salinas de Gortari: May 24, 1993, Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo; March 23, 1994, PRI Presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio; and Sept. 28, 1994, PRI secretary general José Francisco Ruiz Massieu. The ensuing cover-ups of each and all of these murders were essential to producing a psychological and political impact on the Mexican population very similar to the brainwashing induced in the United States by the British murders of the Kennedy brothers. And the coup was completed in March 2009, on Barack Obama’s watch, with the U.S.-sanctioned, fraudulent, drug-linked election of Guillermo Padrés as governor of Sonora—a fact noted and acted upon instantly at the time by LaRouche.

To stage a de facto counter-coup against those international forces, Mexico’s historically nationalist institutions must now coordinate efforts with international allies, especially in the United States, as best exemplified by López Portillo’s alliance of principle with LaRouche, an alliance which today is represented by such policies as Glass-Steagall and the NAWAPA-PLHINO-PLHIGON great projects.

That is the challenge awaiting Mexico under incoming President Peña Nieto.