

Lyndon LaRouche at Age 90: His Global, Historic Role

by Nancy Spannaus, Editor

Sept. 18—It is my belief that we would be doing our readers an injustice, if we didn't mark the 90th birthday of Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr. with at least a glimpse at the international outpouring of celebration which greeted that occasion. Those who have become acquainted with the LaRouche movement in more recent years may well be surprised to learn of his early interventions, a few of which are reflected in the contributions we present here. I can assure you that we are only providing a very small foretaste of what you can find in our www.larouche-pub.com archive, and beyond.

Lyndon LaRouche is, and has been since 1971, an increasingly influential political figure in the United States, one so threatening to the British oligarchical grip on our country and the world that the empire's lackeys spent trillions of dollars to try to destroy him and his movement. Any honest history of the country and the world over the past 40 years must acknowledge his role—not only in major events such as the intellectual authorship of the Strategic Defense Initiative, but in many other crucial areas of policy. What that history shows is the power of *ideas* to shape world events, even (and perhaps especially) if the major media slander the author of those ideas to, or give him the silent treatment.

Rather than making an attempt to do the impossible by trying to summarize LaRouche's contributions as a patriot and world citizen, I have chosen to highlight three regions of the world where the world-famous



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Lyndon LaRouche is best known and appreciated for his accurate economic forecasts. Here, he demonstrates his updated Triple Curve graphic, at a conference in August 2009.

economist's activities brought forward an outpouring of gratitude for his efforts, on the occasion of his birthday. The most extensive is Russia—a most ironic development considering the murderous opposition which LaRouche faced from the Soviet Union during the period of the SDI, when his proposal was presented as hostile to that nation's very existence. Given the strategic weight of Russia in the world, of course, the appreciation of LaRouche and his ideas from that quarter, is also potentially the most important.

The other two regions I have chosen—Africa and Ibero-America—have many fewer contributions, but

reflect the central commitment of LaRouche's life, to the defeat of oligarchical economics. The authors have worked to provide a context for understanding LaRouche's work in these areas, and with the people quoted.

It is as an economist that LaRouche has made his intellectual mark in history, and thus it is fitting to start off this brief compilation of birthday greetings (the full Festschrift delivered to him was over 300 pages!) with a short review of his record as the world's foremost economic forecaster. While written in 1999, this review tightly summarizes LaRouche's own view of his forecasting method and record.

LaRouche as an Economist

Both Lyndon LaRouche's standing as an internationally known economist, and his exceptional successes as a long-range forecaster, are the outgrowths of his original discoveries of physical principle, dating from a project conducted during the 1948-1952 interval. These discoveries arose out of his opposition to Bertrand Russell devotee Prof. Norbert Wiener's efforts, as in the latter's 1948 *Cybernetics*, to apply so-called "information theory" to communication of ideas. As part of that same project, he also opposed Russell devotee John von Neumann's efforts to degrade real economic processes to solutions for systems of simultaneous linear inequalities.

The outcome of this project was LaRouche's introduction of axiomatically non-linear notions of individual human cognition, explicitly, to that science of physical economy which had been first established by the relevant 1671-1716 work of Gottfried Leibniz. His own work located the determining, nonlinear factor in increase of society's potential relative population-density in the relations exemplified by the role of the machine-tool principle in linking proof-of-principle experiments to the development of advanced designs of both products and productive processes.

In his subsequent search for a metrical standard for this treatment of the functional role of cognition, he adopted the Leibniz-Gauss-Riemann standpoint, as represented by Bernhard Riemann's 1854 habilitation dissertation. Hence, the employment of Riemannian conceptions to LaRouche's own discoveries became known as the LaRouche-Riemann Method.

His work is best known through his success in two long-range forecasts. The first of these was developed during 1959-1960, forecasting, that, if the axiomatic

policy-shaping assumptions of the Truman and Eisenhower Presidencies persisted, the second half of the 1960s would experience a series of international financial-monetary crises, leading toward a breakdown in the existing Bretton Woods agreements: This occurred during the interval from the British sterling devaluation of November 1967, through the breakdown of the Bretton Woods agreements, on Aug. 15-16, 1971.

The second was premised upon the implications of the 1971 breakdown. He forecast, that, if the dominant powers resorted to a combination of increasingly rapacious, monetarist forms of austerity measures, the result would be, not a new cyclical crisis, but, rather, a systemic crisis, a "general breakdown crisis" of the global system. Since the October 1987 U.S. stock market crisis, and the strategic, economic, financial, and monetary decisions of the 1989-1992 interval, the existing global financial-monetary system has become locked into the presently erupting series of seismic-like shocks expressing such a global systemic, or "general breakdown crisis."

Biological Holocaust; SDI

Two other major long-range forecasts by LaRouche deserve mention here. The first came in the 1974-75 period, when, in the wake of a study on the impact of IMF conditionalities on conditions of life in Africa (and other Third World nations), LaRouche issued a warning of a looming "biological holocaust" if those conditions were permitted to continue. With the development of AIDS, and other new diseases over the past decades, LaRouche has been proven devastatingly correct.

The second came in the period of the Strategic Defense Initiative, when LaRouche warned the Soviet Union that it was headed for an economic breakdown within approximately five years, if its leaders did not accept the offer from President Reagan for a joint science-driver, anti-war program. Within six years, that breakdown occurred.

Every forecast LaRouche made, of course, came with a proposal for how disaster could be averted. A forecast is a war plan for action, LaRouche emphasizes, because man is not a creature of fate, but has the capability of making the decisions that will change what now appears to be inevitable.

Upon the occasion of his 90th birthday, despite the manifest folly of those leaders who have ignored his sage advice, LaRouche remains committed to that optimistic truth—as do those of us here at *EIR*.