

POLITICS 2012

It's the Breakdown Of the System, Stupid!

by Harley Schlanger

May 8—In 1992, when the U.S. economy was plunging under the misdirection of President George H.W. Bush, Democratic consultant James Carville came up with a slogan for Bush's election opponent, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, which captured the moment. Whenever Bush tried to change the subject from the deep recession, which had resulted from his efforts to further deregulate the economy and cut spending, Democrats would say, "It's the economy, stupid."

Bush, who was already badly wounded politically from the gross incompetence of his economic team, and from the appearance of being disconnected from the suffering his policies had caused, was easy prey for Clinton, who appeared to genuinely "feel the pain" of those who had lost jobs and security due to the "Bush recession." Clinton's promise, to rebuild American infrastructure, resonated with voters.

What a difference 20 years makes, as Clinton has now thrown his support to President Barack Obama, whose policies are dictated by the same City of London/Wall Street globalist financial cartels which gave Bush Sr. his policies, and who has imposed much greater suffering and insecurity on the unemployed, seniors, veterans, the sick, the poor, and the declining middle class than did Bush Sr., and his even more incompetent son, George W. Bush, in his eight years as President.

No wonder voters are apathetic, pessimistic, and frustrated, with reports about the "enthusiasm deficit"

faced by both parties dominating campaign coverage. We have reached what Lyndon LaRouche forecast back in July 2007: the breakdown of the financial system and the physical economy of the United States. And while the voters may not yet understand this, the vast majority not only "feel" that everything is going to Hell, but have a sense of impotence that anything can be done to change it.

Romney: The Establishment's Choice

Even the small number of voters who defend Obama acknowledge that he has been a failure. "He needs more time," they plead. "He was stuck with the most ideological, obstructionist Republicans in Congress ever." Besides, they add, the crisis was much worse when he was inaugurated than anyone knew.

This is bunk, the sophisticated garbage put forward by a gang of losers, who are clinging to their party positions for all the wrong reasons. The party hacks are, of course, those who put party above principle, and will repeat any lie, if it aids their cause. In a healthy, sane society, such corrupt opportunists would be quickly brushed aside, so that the real problems facing the nation could be addressed.

Unfortunately, what the 2012 Presidential campaign has so far demonstrated is that we are no longer a healthy, sane society. The Republican field included a number of candidates who lacked the cognitive capac-



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The last hope for a primary challenge to Obama was crushed when former President Clinton endorsed Obama, and helped to raise \$2 million for the President's reelection campaign.

ity to know that it is the very policies they were espousing which caused the breakdown in the first place. Forty years of “globalization”—free trade, floating exchange rates, deregulation of finance and insurance, and attacks on the legitimate functions of government—have led to dysfunction in both the public *and* private sectors. We have become a nation of speculators and debtors, and are no longer a nation of producers, which employs scientific and technological progress to increase our energy-flux density, taking us to ever-higher platforms of development.

On foreign policy, all but one of the GOP candidates tried so hard to out-war-monger Obama, that they made his drive for thermonuclear conflict with Russia and China seem moderate in comparison.

When the Republican clown show ultimately folded, Mitt Romney emerged as the presumptive nominee, largely because the GOP establishment quietly poured tens of millions of dollars into campaign PACs backing his candidacy. Despite all the talk about grassroots rebellion, social conservatives, Tea Party activists, etc., which dominated the media during the primary and caucus season, it was the Wall Street establishment man, Romney, who triumphed.

This may be a hollow victory, as there is little of the kind of excitement among those Republican voters which fueled the so-called Reagan revolution in the '80s, the Gingrich rebellion in the '90s, the Bush, Jr. boomlet in 2000, nor among those who took the U.S. House from the Democrats in 2010.

The Obama Problem

Up until the New Hampshire primary, there had been talk about a challenge to Obama. The “left/Progressive” wing of the party correctly sees Obama as a disaster, if not exactly the enemy. He has vigorously continued the British Empire’s little wars, trampling on the Constitution in the process, as in his refusal to go to the Congress when placing the U.S. military in the lead in deposing, then killing, Libya’s Qaddafi; he extended Bush’s “Patriot Act,” while increasing government spying on citizens; he proclaimed himself judge, jury, and executioner, in the unconstitutional findings which he says give him the right to order the execution of Americans, or their indefinite detention; and in his attack on the potential Supreme Court challenge to his fascist “Affordable Care Act,” which is modeled on Hitler’s T-4 “useless eaters” policy of genocide; he expressed his contempt for the Constitutional provisions of due process, and the system of checks and balances.

Further, significant sections of traditional Democratic voters, including labor, African-Americans, and Hispanics, have seen their demands for economic justice rejected by Obama, who not only continues to protect Wall Steet’s “Too Big To Fail” speculative vultures, but whose “financial reform” package, Dodd-Frank, is a fraud, as it rejected the one policy which is essential for a thoroughgoing reform of the bankrupt financial system, the reintroduction of Glass-Steagall financial regulation. Despite lies that things are improving with unemployment, housing, and health care, most Americans are not fooled, as banks continue to have a liquidity lifeline from the Fed, while individuals and productive companies and businesses are cut off from credit.

Yet no Democrat challenged Obama in the primaries, despite the willingness of many Obama opponents,

especially among the supporters of his former opponent Hillary Clinton, to engage in a “Draft Hillary” campaign, beginning in New Hampshire. Their last hope for an alternative was snuffed at the end of April, when former President Clinton publicly endorsed Obama in a video in which he praised Obama’s “leadership” in ordering the killing of Osama bin Laden, and then turned around and helped him raise \$2 million in a fundraiser. It is now reported that Clinton will campaign for Obama in some of the battleground states, which Obama would likely lose on his own.

The pollsters report that the youth vote, which was crucial for Obama in 2008, has abandoned him, as youth unemployment is at near-record levels, meaning many young people are forced to live with their parents, while taking low-wage, part-time jobs—if they can find any work—in the vain hope that they may pay off their student loans, or maybe someday afford a house, or even an apartment of their own. In 2008, Obama’s campaign featured highly-motivated young people, tired of Bush’s wars and bluster, who fell for Obama’s drivel about hope and change. A recent poll showed that today, only 20% of young voters believe the country is going in the right direction. Obama’s approval rating among college students remains at 46%, but few of them will campaign for him, despite his recent pandering about how he wants to help them pay off student loans.

The main pockets of support remaining for Obama are Wall Street, which has been the one sector he was willing to protect, though many there are “hedging,” giving large amounts to Romney, as well; Hollywood; and Silicon Valley and its “venture fund” partners, the only sector which will get any benefit from his misnamed “JOBS” act.

Finally, Democrats are having a difficult time convincing people to become delegates for Obama to the Party Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Leading Democrats from California, Washington State, Arizona, Texas, Ohio, and New Jersey have all reported low attendance at delegate selection events. In Texas, where in 2008, thousands jammed into small halls literally fighting to become a delegate, this year’s Senate District conventions were empty, and any warm body that showed up was asked to become a delegate. A number of unions say they will boycott the convention, as it is occurring in a right-to-work state.

With this background, it is not so surprising that while polls show no love for either candidate, they also show a virtual tie in a race between the two. One poll-

ster said that if “None of the Above” were on the ballot, it would come out on top.

An American Revival

In a recent discussion of the demoralization of the American people, LaRouche pointed to the destruction of real science and Classical culture as a central cause of the demoralization. The belief in sense-certainty has robbed people of the ability to use critical judgment in evaluating anything, as Americans bet their future on a housing bubble in the first decade of the new century, and then, when the bubble popped, turned their nation over to a narcissistic serial liar, after being told repeatedly by the media that he was “cool.”

Americans have tolerated a ten-year war in Afghanistan, the bankruptcy of state and local governments, and the destruction of education under first Bush’s “No Child Left Behind” and then, the anti-union, anti-student “Race to the Top” of Obama. On economics, brains have been turned off by mindless repetition of an anti-American-System mantra of “no taxes,” “cut the budget,” and “government is the problem.”

Yet, it would be wrong to assume, even at this late date, that the only choice is Romney or Obama. There is, underneath the cynicism and demoralization, what LaRouche described as an “unpredictably explosive potential” building up. He added that it is as handfuls of people recognize that “the attitudes prevailing now among elected officials are putting us on the road to extinction,” and that there is an alternative to these failed axioms, that a potential for a shock exists. The escalating revolt in Europe, seen in last weekend’s elections in Greece, France, and the German state of Schleswig-Holstein, in which the establishment parties took a beating, shows that there is a hunger for an alternative, for new leadership.

In the U.S., as all the different political flavors, from the Tea Party to the Wall Street establishment, from the so-called left to so-called conservatives, demonstrate that they are bound by the existing, failed axioms, the opportunity exists for such a shock to be delivered. In the U.S., there is an alternative leadership in the LaRouche Slate of Congressional candidates. It is the great fear of those City of London/Wall Street oligarchs, who have backed both Obama and Romney, that such an awakening is coming, and that the creative force of the tradition of the American Revolution will sweep them away, along with their hopelessly broken-down system.