

EU's Greek Policy Is 'Regime Change' By Warfare Against the Nation-State

by Dean Andromidas

Feb. 28—The Greek national daily *Hellada* published a hard-hitting interview on Feb. 25 with Helga-Zepp LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute and chairwoman of the Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo) in Germany. The paper, in its Feb. 23-24 edition, had published an article by Dr. Nicolas Laos citing Lyndon LaRouche's Feb. 16 warning that the trans-Atlantic financial system is in a hyperinflationary explosion.

Zepp-LaRouche's interview is a crucial intervention into the explosive situation in Greece, which has become the first humanitarian catastrophe the European Union has inflicted upon one of its member states. Despite vigorous protests for years, the austerity policy of the European Union and IMF have charged ahead unchallenged by any political opposition with a viable alternative. Zepp-LaRouche provides that alternative.

Laos, a well-known commentator, began the two-page interview with an introduction on the LaRouches and their political movement. All the questions were sharp and highly relevant to the current international strategic and financial crisis. They included the request to comment on the causes of the financial and economic crisis afflicting Europe, and especially the Eurozone, "where huge state-imposed austerity programs are implemented," together with bank bailouts; and a request "to articulate a robust policy of socio-economic development."

Zepp-LaRouche did all this, and more. (See box)

'Social Euthanasia'

The European financial oligarchy is inflicting on Greece the worst humanitarian catastrophe since its occupation by the Nazis in World War II. In a demonstration in front of the Greek Ministry of Finance Feb. 26, blind Greek protestors accused the government of carrying out "social euthanasia," by dramatically cutting

their pensions and other benefits at a time when there is high unemployment.

"Unemployment, poverty, and social isolation threaten the majority of the families with disabled people," said the Association of the Blind in a statement, according to the daily *Kathimerini*.

In fact, the entire country is being subjected to "social euthanasia." Eurostat, the European Union's statistical office, reported that fully 31% of the Greek population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2011. These figures include 30.4% of children under the age of 18; 31.7% for those 18 to 64 years of age; and 29.3% of senior citizens over age 64. One could easily add 5 to 10 percentage points to the figures. Over the past year these figures have only increased.

Unemployment as of November 2012 reached 27%, up from 26.6% the month before, according to the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT). Youth unemployment (ages 15-25) was 61.7%. These are the highest figures in Europe. In a country of fewer than 10 million people, thousands are losing their jobs every day. These figures do not include the unemployed among small business owners, such as shopkeepers, who form 15% of the workforce.

Health Cuts = Mass Murder

As a direct result of the "reforms" devised by the Troika of overseers from the European Union, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, which suck out all available funds to assure the debt payments to the bailout fund, Greeks are being murdered by lack of medical care.

The London *Guardian* revealed that life-saving drugs have almost disappeared from the shelves of pharmacies and hospital dispensaries. Multinational pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Roche, and



Courtesy of George D. Vardangalos

A general strike in Athens' Syntagma Square on Feb. 20. Analysts see larger social explosions on the horizon.

Sanofi, have stopped shipments of these drugs to Greece because of nonpayment. The country's social insurance funds and hospitals owe pharmaceutical companies EU1.9 billion, going back to 2011. In turn, the government owes Greek hospitals and the insurance fund EU3 billion. The shortages include medications for arthritis, hepatitis C, and hypertension, cholesterol-lowering agents, anti-psychotics, antibiotics, anesthetics, and immunomodulators used to treat bowel disease.

Dimitris Karageorgiou, secretary general of the Pan-Hellenic Pharmaceutical Association, said, "I would say supplies are down by 90%. The companies are ensuring that they come in dribs and drabs to avoid prosecution. Everyone is really frightened. Customers tell me they are afraid of losing access to medication altogether." He said many are also worried that insurance coverage will dry up.

"Around 300 drugs are in very short supply and they include innovative drugs, medications for cancer patients and people suffering from clinical depression," said Karageorgiou. "It's a disgrace. The government is panic-stricken and the multinationals only think about themselves and the issue of parallel trade, because wholesalers can legally sell them to other European nations at a higher price."

"Lines will form in the early morning or late at night when you're on duty," said Karageorgiou, who is based in Thessaloniki. "And when the drugs aren't available, which is often the case, people get very aggressive. I'm

on duty tonight and know there will be screaming and shouting, but in the circumstances, I also understand. We have reached a tragic point."

Under the orders of the Troika, the government has cut the pharmaceutical budget from EU3.7 billion in 2011 to EU2.44 billion in 2012, and now the Troika is expected to demand that it be cut to EU2 billion in 2013.

Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, a retired Greek ambassador who held senior positions in the Foreign Ministry, sent a scathing open letter Feb. 14 to European Commission vice

president Olli Rehn, denouncing the EU policy as "wrong and ineffective . . . from the time it was first adopted in 2010." He charged that the policy had led directly to the "increase of unemployment from around 16% in 2009 to 28% today, increase of the debt, increase of poverty, creation of food lines, increased suicides, unburied dead, etc.; nothing was done by the EU, IMF and the European Central Bank to correct the situation. Austerity can no longer work on a population that can no longer afford to pay taxes to a State that cannot give anything in exchange. And we are speaking about a member-state of the EU, which is being destroyed in order to be saved."

Charging that the policy has violated the EU's own Lisbon Treaty, which calls for protecting "human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights," he concluded that the "solution can only be one. That is to zero the Greek debt, which is about 3% of the EU's GDP, and allow Greece, through a program of reform, to achieve growth."

A Social Explosion

With the economy set to collapse even further this year, warnings of an imminent "social explosion" are being heard from very senior Greek policy circles. In reality, the explosion has already begun. Since the first of this year, strikes and demonstrations have been taking place throughout Greece. One day it is a group of doctors protesting the fact they haven't been paid in

months and that cuts health are making it impossible for them to save people's lives. On another it is teachers, the disabled, pensioners, or students.

Earlier this month the two big trade union federations held a 24-hour nationwide general strike, bringing 100,000 demonstrators to a rally in front of the Greek Parliament. The farm unions staged a month-long protest in February. After talks broke down between farmers and the government, because it has all but ignored

their demands, they called for a rally in Athens on March 5.

On Feb. 25, the opposition party Independent Greeks spokesman Panos Kammenos called on the Greek people to "send a message of resistance" against the austerity policies of the government, which has been "faithfully following the dictates of a foreign junta," meaning the Troika.

The question is when with these protests will turn

Zepp-LaRouche to Hellada

In her interview to Dr. Nicolas Laos of the national daily *Hellada* published Feb. 25, Helga Zepp-LaRouche pointed to the paradigm shift, especially in the trans-Atlantic world, "away from production based on scientific and technological progress, toward monetarism and the idea that 'money makes money,' after President Nixon's abolition of the Bretton Woods System, the creation of unregulated offshore markets, and the adoption of floating exchange rates." Since then, "a completely unregulated derivative market of virtual assets has mushroomed," exceeding the real economy by orders of magnitude.

As for Europe, she said: "The imposition of the euro system as the 'price to pay for German unification' was never done with the intention of a creating a prosperous European economy, but rather to have Europe revert to a feudal, deindustrialized state under a supranational dictatorship, as various admissions by Giuliano Amato, Jacques Attali, or Claude Juncker confirm. The present crisis in the Eurozone is not an accident of a well-intended policy, but the result of an intended 'regime change,' away from sovereign nation-states, toward feudal dictatorship, in which the EU became the junior partner of an Anglo-American-dominated empire, which is just another way of saying 'globalisation.' All European peoples have become the victims of this policy. The Greek people were obviously the hardest hit, but Germany is also being destroyed."

As for the economic policy to be implemented, Zepp-LaRouche called for immediate Glass-Steagall-

type reform: complete separation of commercial from investment banking, with toxic assets being written off rather than paid by the taxpayers. That must be followed, she said, with the creation of a credit system, and the "buildup of the real economy through well-defined great projects, such as NAWAPA for Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, and the "Development Program for Southern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Africa," elaborated by the Schiller Institute.

Laos's second question elicited comments on the "asymmetric expansion of so-called financial capitalism vis-à-vis the real economy" and the need for technological breakthroughs to revolutionize the economy. Here, Zepp-LaRouche expanded on the intention of both "Helicopter Ben" Bernanke of the Federal Reserve and Mario Draghi of the European Central Bank to go for a hyperinflationary policy, as a means of paying off private speculative debts at the expense of the population, a policy that must be stopped immediately.

Zepp-LaRouche referred to the recent meteorite explosion over Russia and the asteroid flyby, which delivered a wake-up call to all, since impacts of large asteroids or comets could wipe out the population of Earth. "Human beings, however, are the only species capable of creativity and of understanding the physical principles of the universe at large. Therefore we can meet these challenges in principle, if we change our present policy course. Space exploration and manned space travel are not an option; they are mandatory in order to solve the problems we face. The recent landing of the Mars rover Curiosity gives us every reason for optimism, and to believe that we are only at the beginning of the age of space colonization."

into a mass revolt that could lead to the collapse of the government. In an interview to the *New Statesman*, the above-mentioned Ambassador Chrysanthopoulos warned, “At a certain moment, quite soon, there will be an explosion of social unrest. It will be very unpleasant.” Referring to recent fire-bombings and attacks on offices of the ruling New Democracy party, he again warned that when new, retroactive (unpayable) taxes come due in the coming months, “there will be further increases in armed actions. There will be bloody demonstrations. These actions are condemnable, of course, but I feel that this sort of armed activity will increase as long as the government continues to impose oppressive measures against the Greek people.”

Chrysanthopoulos revealed that the government has hired private security companies, because “the Greek government does not trust the police, whose salaries have also been cut.”


Seeing the potential for a military coup, Chrysanthopoulos said that the government has sought assurances from the military that it would not intervene in case of a social explosion.

Another senior Greek security specialist, [Tassos Sy-](#)

[menidis](#), academic advisor to the Athens-based Research Institute for European and American Studies, also warned that the social unrest could lead to “spontaneous combustion,” painting a scenario in which “mass demonstrations overwhelm police truncheons and tear gas and succeed in sacking government buildings, threaten politicians, and even lay siege to Parliament. Shots by retreating police kill demonstrators.” This could lead to disintegration of the government, since it would not be able to rely on the Armed Forces for help, because they too have become victims of the austerity.

The resulting anarchy would be the direct consequence of Greece having “reverted to a stage of underdevelopment, deprivation, and pauperization through the means of asymmetrical economic warfare conducted by lenders...”

The catastrophe facing Greece is the same that awaits all of Europe, unless, as Zepp-LaRouche stated in her interview, a Glass-Steagall reform is immediately implemented and a new credit system created to make the LaRouche [“Program for an Economic Miracle in Southern Europe, the Mediterranean Region, and Africa”](#) a reality.



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