

What the BRICS Revolution Means For Spain, and All of Europe

José Carlos Soto, of the Spanish LaRouche Movement, gave this video presentation to the Mexico City Schiller Institute event Nov. 20. It was translated from Spanish for EIR.

Good morning to Mexico, and good afternoon to those in Spain and the rest of Europe.

Spain is perhaps experiencing the most dramatic situation of what it means to live under the de facto government of the Troika; that is to say, the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and International Monetary Fund. And

also what it means to be living in the twilight of a system. Furthermore, Spain is a reflection of what is happening all over Europe, especially so in the South, where we are experiencing the effects of the crisis much more harshly.

The policies of the Troika are often presented as “recommendations” which are then shared by all member-states. But these recommendations are implemented on the grounds that no country in Europe today has real sovereignty within the current European Union framework. This structure is now a threat to Europe and to all humanity. This is no exaggeration. These “recommendations” of the Troika are really dictates from the centers of financial power of Wall Street and the City of London. And this includes the financial and banking system that is an integral part of the whole arrangement, which is then supported (as a necessary part of this process) by a political class that is linked to these same financial powers, either ideologically or through pure corruption, as we see in Spain.

Corruption can also mean not raising your voice or remaining silent about the rise of Nazism in Ukraine, or the dangerous stupidity of provoking Russia without any



José Carlos Soto of the LaRouche Movement of Spain (MLE) emphasized that “Spain is not dead,” despite the brutal policies of the Troika, and that the time has come for Europe to join the BRICS revolution.

basis. This has led, for example, to the Russian counter-sanctions, which are a new blow to areas already affected by the current financial crisis.

This entire system is completely bankrupt. On the one hand, this could be good news, because it represents an opportunity for change; but there is also the danger of not acting in time.

There is also a reaction within Europe against this same system. A reflection of this was seen in the European Parliamentary elections, in which there was a rise of anti-Troika political parties. And I

say anti-Troika, because I’m convinced it was not a reaction to any project for a common framework of collaboration in Europe, but it was a rejection of the failed project of a warmongering, monetarist European Union.

Here, I think that it is essential that the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) are setting an example, and presenting what can and must be a real framework for cooperation among sovereign countries in the century in which we live.

The Fake ‘Recovery’

As for the current situation of chaos in Spain and Europe: You find every day an absurd picture in the media, and even from the Spanish government, talking about a supposed economic recovery thanks to the measures proposed by the European Commission, and promptly implemented by the European states. You can say with certainty that the media is not doing the work it should be doing under any rule of law or democracy. Quite the opposite, in fact.

To conclusively dispose of this supposed image of recovery given by the media, that some people still

defend, I want to briefly mention the real situation in Spain, which I think can be extrapolated to a greater or lesser extent for other countries in Europe, especially southern Europe. I do this briefly, because I think that beyond the fantasy world being portrayed by the media and government spokesmen, the real situation is well known to the population, which actually has to face the crisis every day.

What is really useful, is to present an alternative to this, as we are doing.

Spain has a public debt that already exceeds EU1 billion, nearing 97% of its GDP. This should be called bankruptcy, shared by all Autonomous Communities [Galicia, the Basque Country, and Catalonia]. In fact, the Constitution was amended for the first time since 1978 [in 2011] to prioritize the payment of this debt over the most basic human rights, such as health, education, or food.

To those who say this is not so, there are reports by Carit s and other NGOs that are available, which reveal the actual level of poverty in Spain. This debt has tripled since 2007, after the bailouts of the banks, and all the austerity measures proposed by the Troika. I hope this helps to rip apart the idea that we need the Troika to overcome this crisis! First, they created the crisis conditions, and now, after their measures, we are in this situation.

Spain is also the European country with the highest rate of youth unemployment, over 60%, not to mention other sectors of the population; for example, those between 45 and 60 years of age who are also unemployed, but within this system—many of them have no prospect of finding a job, perhaps for the rest of their lives. Added to this is the cut-off of public assistance for the long-term unemployed.

There is already talk of an exodus or mass self-exile of an entire generation, many with good qualifications or scientific training. An example of this is an open letter to the Spanish government by a group of top Spanish scientists in 2012. The cuts in research and development are causing a brain drain, as if we don't need those brains here, because having financial derivatives, who needs anything else!

This can be contrasted with what the young people of India represent for President Narendra Modi. For him, the youth of his country are “the power of India.” Russian President Putin has also expressed himself in these same terms. And I believe that to not say this to the youth of your country, and not just say it, but to work competently to give them a future, is an act that can be considered outright criminal.

In the face of this situation, what are the measures proposed by the European Commission to resolve it? More cuts, of course, often in key investments and projects, as the most important thing is “budgetary stability,” although not for the financial derivatives, of course; and other measures proposed by the European Commission, which Spain is already implementing, as are the other member-states.

This is something many people do not know about, and are often shocked by, when they discover that the new accounting methods being proposed and established in Europe include income from prostitution and drugs in the GDP of each country. So, when it appears in the media that Spain has increased its GDP by zero point-something, or 1%, meaning that economic recovery is in process, really what is behind it, is this new accounting method. This is the world of budgetary stability and financial accounting, in which the destruction of a society and a population through such activities matters little.

Of course, continuing to keep the financial bubble afloat with quantitative easing is another “smart” measure proposed by the Troika.

The State's response to ongoing public protests, in Portugal, Greece, and Spain, is police-state measures. This is called *fascism*, whose cause, and what is behind this, are the financial interests of a few mega-rich people.

A Break with the System

In this situation it is very important, essential I would say, to understand the real meaning of what is happening with the BRICS. Because the advances and agreements that they are implementing do not only represent a *break* with this system, which is important and necessary for simple survival, but at the same time, they are presenting a positive alternative to that system. And it means that we don't have to take it any longer. This can be changed.

But even more, we say that it is a scientific-economic revolution, because it reflects a vision and an image of humanity beyond the “law of the jungle” that [Chinese President] Xi Jinping recently referred to. And I think Dennis Small will help us to understand better, why this is a scientific revolution.

I want to state, above all, that *Spain is not dead*. That there is room to rebuild the economy in Spain and bring back all the young people who are leaving, and more.

For example, from sectors representing the real, productive economy—e.g., component part manufacturers' associations, to small and medium-size businesses, to

FIGURE 1
Spain's Mediterranean Rail Corridor



Spanish government

farmers' associations, and so on—we see that two things are being asked, above all. And we must listen to these people because these are the sectors which know what an economy should be, beyond speculation and the false value of money itself. There are other important projects, but I think these are essential for Spain.

One thing being asked for is cheaper energy. Many companies have to shut down because they cannot afford to pay their electric bills. In Spain, we have the problem of “renewable energy,” which is part of the fraud of global warming and zero growth imposed by Prince Philip and company. And here in Spain unfortunately, we have not yet managed to become independent from all of this.

In this regard, it is interesting to see the paradigm shift, I think, out of necessity and natural sanity, which is being created by the BRICS. Because many of the agreements being made by these countries are going in the direction of the development of nuclear energy. I said that Spain is not dead, among other things, because fortunately, it has not reached the level of alienation that Germany has with its nuclear blackout by 2025, and we still have a functioning nuclear sector. But Spain could be much more developed if we realized its fundamental importance.

Here let me mention, in particular, the case of Bolivia, because it has implications for all of Europe. Especially because, although Bolivia does not belong to the BRICS, it is becoming clear that the changes promoted by the BRICS are not only inclusive, but are major changes in ways of thinking and doing things. One could say a revolution that is having a resonance

around the globe, and not only in the BRICS countries. So this is important for the future of Europe.

The Vice President of Bolivia, Álvaro García Linera, said a few months ago:

“The use of and training in atomic energy is one of our obligations as a society and as a State. We have made that decision, and we are going to guide ourselves based on that decision. In the coming years, we will implement a program of nuclear energy, for peaceful purposes, with medical and agricultural goals, as the case may be, but we will have an elite, a core of brains, integrated with the world, to networks which work in the atomic field, which will allow Bolivia to learn about and use this fire of the 21st Century: atomic energy.”

And I say that if this is happening in Bolivia, then I believe that here in Spain and Europe, we can wake up before it's too late.

If we contrast this with the supposed end of nuclear power in Germany in 2025, we can see the contrast of an old system, with the new one coming to replace it. Fortunately, Spain has not lost its way as much as Germany, and many economic and scientific sectors are locating the issue of nuclear energy accordingly.

The Mediterranean Rail Corridor

Another important project I wanted to mention falls also within the framework of collaboration taking place with the BRICS. On the one hand, with the development of atomic energy, and on the other, with the New Silk Road and the construction of high-speed rail lines worldwide. It is the Mediterranean Corridor (**Figure 1**).

This corridor represents 18% of the surface of Spain, but includes nearly 40% of both the population and the national GDP, and 49%, almost half, of the total overland freight traffic in Spain.

Many sectors are saying that these projects are non-negotiable. You cannot say there is no money for them, because what generates wealth is the creation of the project itself, not money. It is therefore fraudulent not to carry out these projects on that pretext. And it is also not true, because this can be funded nationally with a Hamiltonian credit bank dedicated to increasing real productivity, or even better, to do so in cooperation with other countries, as in the model of the BRICS Development Bank.

Since we are running out of time, I am just going to stick to what's essential. And this is, that the southern part of Spain, as you can see, is not yet connected to this corridor. This is something underway. Here, we see on one side, the actual status of the project, and on the other, the final projection in 2025. But, for lack of investment, the timetable is not being met, and crisis-type solutions are being given to problems, such as matching the rail gauge with the European gauge, which is important, but insufficient.

It is not just important to connect the southern part to this corridor because the south is one of the areas where the crisis is hitting hardest, but also, if you look at **Figure 2**, we can see why this is also very important. This corridor not only connects to northern Europe through France, but also after construction of a Strait of Gibraltar crossing, it will extend into Africa.

This project for the Strait of Gibraltar is key, and the LaRouche organization has done many different reports on it, explaining its importance as an integral part of the World Land-Bridge project. In fact, at a Conference for the Ministers of Transport of Europe and Africa a few weeks ago in Lisbon, the Minister of Develop-

FIGURE 2
World Land-Bridge: Eurasia and Africa



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ment of Spain Ana Pastor said the Strait tunnel project is of “strategic” importance.

Looking at Figure 2, we can see why that is so. Through this tunnel—and this is in the bigger context of the World Land-Bridge which includes other important projects like the Bering Strait Tunnel connecting Eurasia and America—Africa will be connected with Spain and the rest of Europe. This has enormous implications in terms of development, new jobs, and in the creation of an entirely new paradigm.

None of these projects will take place unless they are in a framework of cooperation and respect, as is taking place with the BRICS. That is, in a credit system designed for productive activities, and on the basis that inspired the Treaty of Westphalia, of understanding “the benefit of the other,” as not being separate from our own. We need to create a lasting peace, and we have the obligation to understand what exactly is preventing this.

So, here in Europe, it is incumbent upon us to recognize that there is a vital and a moral imperative to transform the current system of the Troika, and join a completely different model of existence, a model which adequately reflects human creativity. We believe we are in a historic moment, and what happens depends on each of us, and on what we do, or do not do, right now.