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## II. LaRouche's Initiative

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### INTERVIEW

# Helga Zepp-LaRouche Addresses A World in Crisis

*Tony Papert interviewed Helga Zepp-LaRouche on July 24.*

**Tony Papert:** Helga Zepp-LaRouche is speaking to us from Germany, where she is engaged in far-reaching activity on a European and world scale. Helga, is the euro system about to break apart after last month's vote by the British to leave the European Union (EU)? Will that mean a world financial crash? Are there alternatives, and if so, what are they?

**Helga Zepp-LaRouche:** The Brexit is just one of several systemic crisis points. Naturally the Brexit's consequences are still very incalculable and represent a great risk to the financial system, but you also have the fact that the International Monetary Fund characterized Deutsche Bank as the bank most at risk in the international financial system. Deutsche Bank has an outstanding derivatives exposure of 55 trillion euro, while the GDP of the German economy is 4 trillion euro. The GDP of the EU is 18 trillion annually. Obviously, that bank alone has a derivatives exposure almost fourteen times the size of the entire German economy. That gives you a sense of how risk-loaded this bank really is.

But that is, in one sense, not a unique situation, be-

cause all the major banks in Europe are totally undercapitalized, since the European governments and the international financial institutions have done nothing since 2008 to correct the casino economy; they have paid out three digit billions in dividends and profits, but they have not really moved to correct this completely crazy system in which, if one too-big-to-fail bank goes under, it will bring down, in a chain reaction, the whole financial system.

Then, on top of that, you have the Italian crisis, which has 360 billion euro in non-performing debt. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has been desperately trying to get an exemption from the EU law which requires a bail-in, that is, the Cyprus model, which means the expropriation of the savers and those people who have bank stocks or bank bonds, as was done in Cyprus. This has already been applied four times in Italy with regional banks, with tremendous social consequences. Many people lost their life savings, there was even one suicide, and Renzi correctly fears a political revolt if he goes with the bail-in law.

On the other side, the EU and the German government know perfectly well that if Renzi is forced to implement the bail-in law anyway, this would almost certainly mean that he will lose the upcoming



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*Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi speaking at Università Ca' Foscari in Venice.*



video grab/PBS News Hour

*Cyprus residents protesting a bail-in, banks confiscating depositors' money, in 2013.*

referendum on the Italian constitution in October, leading to new elections and bringing in, in all likelihood, the Five Star Party, which would take Italy out of the euro and probably out of the Eurozone—and that, for sure, would be the end of the EU and the euro.

So this is all a poker game with the lives and life savings of the population. We have been told by very well placed financial sources that the printing presses are running, because the so-called unorthodox monetary measures, meaning quantitative easing, meaning negative interest rates and so-called helicopter money,— all of that is not sufficient. They are printing physical bank-notes, cash, in case of emergency, and if it comes to this it will mean chaos; it will mean that a lot of people who spent their whole lives in honest work will lose everything, and this is where we are.

### **The Chilcot Report and the 28 Pages**

**Papert:** During July in Britain, the Chilcot Report was released on Tony Blair's authorship or sponsorship of an illegal war in Iraq, and a few days later the long-classified 28 pages of the Joint Congressional 9/11 Inquiry, on Saudi responsibility for the 9/11 attacks, was released. Would you like to speak about the significance of these releases? You have long discussed the 28 pages of the 9/11 report.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** The 28 pages, which are now out with the exception of a few sentences that are still blacked out, simply make very clear that the entire history of 9/11 has to be re-written, because the role of Saudi financing of Wahhabi, Salafist terrorism is very,

very clear. Recall that a little more than a week ago there was a horrible massacre in Nice, which was the fifth major terrorist attack in France since the beginning of 2015. But at the time of the first of these incidents—the massacre at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*—former U.S. Senator Bob Graham said that that terrorist attack would not have occurred if these 28 pages had been published, and obviously that is still the case. In other words, we need a full investigation of the implications in these

28 pages for the emergence of the phenomena of international terrorism.

Now, the Chilcot Report gives the aftermath, or the consequences of what happened after 9/11, namely the wars based on lies, against Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria. Obviously Saddam Hussein was not involved with Al-Qaida. We knew that at the time, because he used to put clerics in jail. He was a secular person, and we knew that any link to Al-Qaida was a lie. We knew it was a lie that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

It is very clear that the Chilcot Report is the follow-up story of the 28 pages. Therefore, the two documents must be seen as one, in one context, and must be investigated, because elements of these two documents have all kinds of international implications, including the Afghanistan war, where Article 5 of NATO was invoked. I think it requires that there be an investigation in all countries affected by the content of these two documents.

### **The 'New Violence'**

**Papert:** Our interview occurs in the immediate aftermath of the killings in Würzburg and Munich, Germany. What is the answer to these sorts of killings, and in particular, how should Americans understand them and work to end them?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** It is very interesting that, in contrast to Nice, where there was clearly a connection with Islamic terrorism, the murders or terrorist incidents in Würzburg and especially Munich, had everything to do with "amok" attacks. In fact, the culprit in the Munich



*A snapshot from a killer video game.*

case had chosen that day as the fifth anniversary of the Breivik horror show in Norway five years ago; the anniversary was on that day. German Interior Minister [Thomas] de Maiziere said afterwards that the harmful effects of killer video games on young people cannot be doubted.

My husband, Lyndon LaRouche, started a campaign against the “new violence” at the beginning of 2000, and I gave a [speech](#) to an audience at the São Paulo State Appellate Criminal Court in Brazil in 2002, in which I went into the history of how these violent video games had developed out of military training to increase the kill rate, because people had found that, among soldiers in World War II, only 15% of soldiers in World War II were even willing to shoot at the enemy, because human beings have a built-in hesitance to kill other members of their kind. The video games were developed to increase the kill rate in the army, and only after that were they developed to become commercial video games.

I, at that time, demanded an international outlawing and banning of these video games, including blocking them on the Internet. That was pooh-poohed at that time, with people saying, “Oh, you can’t block the Internet.” This is a complete lie. Now everybody is com-

pletely hysterical about the fact that China is very effectively blocking entire parts of the Internet, so it can be done. But now, when terrorism is completely out of control, all aspects of it, now is the time to renew this demand to outlaw these kinds of satanic video games.

At the same time, terrorism has totally gotten out of control. In the recent period—the last year and a half—more than 30 countries on four continents have been hit by terrorism, some countries almost every week. For example, Kabul, yesterday another 80 people killed; Baghdad,— these people are suffering as much from these terrorist attacks as the people in Nice or Paris, or Munich, except that the international media choose not to report it. This thing is out of control, and therefore it is absolutely crucial to take up the proposal

of President Putin at the 2015 UN General Assembly, offering international cooperation to fight terrorism. Anybody who does not pick up on that proposal is implicitly complicit in all future such terrorist attacks.

### Deutsche Bank

**Papert:** You, with Lyndon LaRouche, your husband, have launched a campaign to re-organize and re-orient Deutsche Bank. Could you speak about that?



*A firefighter at the scene of a car bomb attack in the Karrada-Kakhil district of southern Baghdad, Iraq, July 3, 2016.*

**Zepp-LaRouche:** The question is, what can you do to prevent the pending disaster of a disorderly financial disintegration of the financial system? Obviously it is very good that Glass-Steagall is now in the platform of both the Democratic and Republican parties, which is a major breakthrough, and it has a lot to do with the work of our organization in particular, but it is a long way from the platform to legislation by Congress and the Senate, and that is what is urgently needed.

That is why what we propose is to use the fact that Deutsche Bank is in a critical condition to say, Okay, there was a time when the business plan of Deutsche Bank was completely different, namely in the period when Alfred Herrhausen was the head of the bank. He was probably the last moral banker with integrity in Europe, for whom morality and banking were not in contradiction.

We are still involved in this campaign; we have gotten a lot of very interested responses in many countries on both sides of the Atlantic, and an interesting reflection may be that, according to rumors at the end of last week, around Friday, Deutsche Bank itself is apparently moving away from its position of being a universal bank, and is considering separating its different economic functions within the bank itself. In other words, to separate the commercial bank making loans to industry,— separating that completely from the investment branch.

I would say that this is a remarkable admission that the universal banking system doesn't function, and we have to see how this plays out. Obviously, without getting rid of the casino aspect of the entire monetary system, it will not be sufficient, but I think it is interesting that people are starting to think in this way. We will, for sure, continue this discussion, because it is very urgent, and the reform of Deutsche Bank in the way we propose it is one way to get at the meat of the matter.

## The Berlin Conference

**Papert:** You led an international conference in Berlin last month, which was featured in *EIR*. What is the message of the conference for the ongoing crisis



*Alfred Herrhausen*

which you have just described in depth?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** We really wanted to make clear that this is a civilizational crisis which has a strategic component involving the immediate war danger because of—among other things—the aggressive NATO expansion to the Russian border, the situation in the Middle East, the situation in the South China Sea, the already mentioned financial crisis, and many other aspects of what we call a civilizational crisis. You do not get out of this by cosmetic reforms here and there. The purpose of the conference in Berlin was to convey the message that we need to have an entirely new paradigm.

The new paradigm must supersede geopolitics, and that is why we are promoting the New Silk Road, proposed by China's President Xi Jinping three years ago, to become the World Land-Bridge, in other words, to become a program of reconstruction of the entire world economy. It is very clear that that is feasible.

It is very easy to extend the Silk Road into the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Africa, and in that way also to solve the refugee crisis, because many millions of people are fleeing from war, hunger, and epidemics, and there must be a new perspective of working together of all major nations on this planet—Russia, China, India, the United States, European nations. If they all joined hands and said, “We will develop Asia and Africa,” you could really solve any problem in the world, and obviously this must be combined with a cultural renaissance, because if you do not uplift the thinking of the people, nothing will be accomplished.

This is why the Berlin conference had, besides very concrete economic proposals, also a very beautiful concert on the basis of the dialogue of cultures, in which we tried to represent the highest expression of different cultures—Chinese, Russian, European. That dialogue of the highest spirit of what humankind has produced has to be reactivated, and has to be the basis for a coming Renaissance. So, this Berlin conference was simply a way to show how easy it would be to bring the world into order if people are motivated by good will.