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### III. Lyndon LaRouche's Science of the Future

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## Cheminade: The Challenge And the Work Starts Now!

*EIR editor Tony Papert interviewed Lyndon LaRouche's friend, former French Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade, on May 15, 2017.*

**EIR:** The great summit on the Belt and Road Initiative is still going on in Beijing as we're speaking, and I understand that France is represented by former Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, currently a Senator. What can you say about what should be France's role in the great tasks of the future—the World Land-Bridge or the Belt and Road Initiative, and the exploration of the Solar system and beyond?

**Jacques Cheminade:** The best way to characterize it is—who knows? Because at this point, Emmanuel Macron has been elected President in an Obama-type campaign, with algorithms checking every opinion, and what the more insightful people are saying here is that on one side you have Marine Le Pen, an old-fashioned populist, and on the other you have the e-populism of Emmanuel Macron. Macron's campaign played on bottom-up emotions—but in fact, he was promoted since April of last year, with the results that we know. It's like a self-fulfilling prophecy. Who was covered on the covers and pages of the magazines, television, everywhere? Macron and Marine Le Pen. What was planned, finally happened.

So, Macron is now in power. As you know, I am relatively knowledgeable of what he is. He is a banker, and at the same time a pianist; he's also a civil servant. But, the best way to characterize Macron, is to say that he played on everything the international banking system could do to help him. He received the support of Obama, before the election, which is absolutely incredible; it's an interference in the national affairs of France. After the election Obama sent him a video supporting him. [German Finance Minister] Schäuble supported him too.



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*Jacques Cheminade*

Macron is somebody who is very nice, very sympathetic with everybody. Everybody, after leaving a meeting with him, thinks he agreed with them on everything. But in fact, he is like a sponge—he absorbs things. Better than that, the best way to characterize the situation is to say that he's a chameleon, which adapts to the universe where he evolves. He picks up the color of the universe wherever he evolves.

I say all that before discussing the Belt and Road Forum with you, because Macron sent Raffarin there. So that may be a good sign, because Raffarin is a former Prime Minister, and in France, he's the official who knows China the best. He has a very good insight into Chinese affairs, he's traveled there many times, and he knows all the Chinese leaders. So in that sense, Macron is going along with the tide.

Also, he appointed Philippe Etienne as his personal diplomatic counselor. He was the ambassador in Berlin before this appointment, and had earlier been deployed at Eastern European and Moscow embassies. He has also been chief of cabinet of right-wing and left-wing govern-

ments. So he's a professional.

He was appointed instead of the person who was expected by some, the former French ambassador in Washington, Gérard Arau, who is an arch neocon. So the neocon was not appointed, and the man who was appointed is a professional in diplomatic affairs. Those are two noteworthy things.

Now, the Prime Minister was just appointed, and it's Edouard Philippe. He is the right-hand man of Alain Juppé and formerly closest collaborator of Jacques Chirac at the right-wing party, the UMP.

Macron describes himself as being neither right nor left, as being right *and* left at the same time, because the interests of France are above all that. So, who can predict what the policy will be? If he goes in the direction of Obama, the bankers, Schäuble, and company, it would be a real disaster. But, because he's a chameleon, if there are stronger forces putting pressure on him, he may go to a different direction. But he will not inspire anything; he's a man that goes with the tide.

So, in terms of the Belt and Road, let's see what happens. If the pressure is big enough on the French government and on France, he will not necessarily oppose it. He will not promote it, or play the cards that France should play, but he won't oppose it.

**EIR:** What are the implications of the fact that he doesn't really have a political party? That he's his own party, in effect?

## Who is President Macron?

**Cheminade:** Well, you have to understand that although he's been elected with more than 65% of the vote, the voters did not vote positively for him, but because they rejected the other candidates, in particular Marine Le Pen. And now, 61% of the French voters expect that he won't have a majority in Par-



@EmmanuelMacron

*Emmanuel Macron*

liament, and that he will have to make a compromise with the moderate right wing. It seems very likely so, because he appointed Edouard Philippe, who was a former collaborator of Juppé. You have to understand also that Juppé was connected with [former French Prime Minister Michel] Rocard in the past. They wrote a book together. So this is the Rocard side of Macron.

Macron is very aware of the crisis of the financial system; he's probably one of the French politicians who is the most aware of it. But at the same time,

for his career, he decided to play the games of the banks—that was the implication of our discussions. He said, if you don't play the games of the banks you can't succeed.

So, now that he has succeeded, I don't know what he will do.

He's very clever, you see. Like a very clever young boy—he has some insight into some things. He should not be overestimated, of course, but he should not be underestimated either.

I didn't not vote for him. I put in a blank vote, which is neither for one nor the other. The debate between Marine Le Pen and him was a real embarrassment for France. It was a really low-level debate, where she was like a—how would you say this, like an ogress? Like a woman who eats babies. She thought that she could eat Macron, and Macron was like a cold fish that she could not swallow.

So he appeared as moderate, and competent, and so forth, and he won the debate. Even in the right wing of France, people are furious against Marine Le Pen, who lost the debate because she attacked him in an extremely brutal and impotent way. Even her father says Marine Le Pen behaved like a badly educated person.

Politics is volatile, people are walking on their heads, and what will come, who knows? If



CC/Remi Noyon

*Marine Le Pen*

Macron follows the policy that he has defined, his rate of approval could drop to 20% by the beginning of November. But who knows? Maybe he will try another policy. Nobody knows what he will do.

That he appointed Raffarin was a surprise. In my communiqué after the second round of the election, I stated that he should give two signals on international policy: First he should go to Beijing. He did not go, because the Belt and Road Forum was the same day as his inauguration. But he sent Raffarin, who is not somebody from his party, not somebody that he knows. But he's the best French politician in terms of his insight into China. And then, at the same time, in the diplomatic game of musical chairs, he appointed somebody who is a professional. So who knows what he has in mind?

His mind is—it's as though he knows the weakness of France, and he wants to create a situation where he can dump the parties; it's a kind of Berlusconi situation, dumping the right wing and the left, as he succeeded in doing. But making the system survive by dumping the parties.

I don't know if it's comprehensible from an American standpoint, because in France, there is no spoils system. In France, you have to go along with your administration. So he's an administration guy at the same time that he's a banker. So you have these two types of identities in the same person.

**EIR:** One thing I heard from you recently, concerns the great number of individual communications, messages, that you got from Frenchmen during the course of your campaign, and probably since—that indicated a lot. Could you say something about that?

**Cheminade:** It's funny, because the journalists did not attack me in the way they had done in the past. There were only two very hostile articles, one in *Le Parisien*, naming Lyn [Lyndon LaRouche] and attacking Lyn. Even one of the journalists in a very popular show presented an image of Lyn from a relatively positive standpoint, saying, "this is LaRouche. He said that you are connected to the inside of the country, and you are not connected to the Parisian elites. Do you think LaRouche was right to say that? And what do you think about who should rule France?"

## Hundreds of Messages

So we got a very, very poor vote in total. Sixty-five thousand votes was less than in 1995 or 2012. But at the



Xinhua/Lyu Xun

*Jean-Pierre Raffarin, President Macron's special envoy to the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, delivering his speech in Beijing on May 14, 2017.*

same time, we got these hundreds and hundreds of messages supporting us, saying "your campaign is the best. What you say about culture was excellent," and so on. It's a kind of strange situation, where we're reaching a lot of people.

Now, I will go on a tour of France, a tour of the whole country, to respond to invitations of people who wrote to me. These are theater directors, hospital directors, groups of teachers, groups of youth, even young journalism-school students—three schools of journalism reacted very positively to what we are saying. And what they told me in private was, "we picked up this journalism profession, because we believed in truth. And then we saw, through your campaign, that truth is not respected, so that's why we are interested in you."

We have a lot of that. It's wonderful. At the same time, the official TV channels, except one or two—it's very funny—want to interview me again especially on the water issue—the water needed for Africa and the third world to stop the drought. This involves Alain Gachet—I don't know if you followed it—he is the engineer and entrepreneur [who came to our Berlin Schiller Institute conference](#), and has developed the competence to locate from space the rock formations that can carry water, and then find the aquifers nearby. When I mentioned that, the reporter asked me, "But why is this not



done?” and I said, “because people don’t care about those that are dying in such countries.” So he said, “you should come back on another program after the election.”

So there is this type of interest, which is unprecedented. I don’t know why—it’s difficult to say why. The fact that I had met Macron before, even if I opposed him, impresses people. If you are part of what is on stage, the French are impressed. So it was different from the other times [Jacques’ two previous Presidential candidacies in 1995 and 2012]—they were sort of respectful.

The way they tried to eliminate me was to say, “you use very strong words, to say that France is occupied by financial forces. You are comparing that to the Nazi occupation—these are strong words. But you are clever, you are funny, you are a very good person to meet—but, but, obviously, you can’t be at the head of a state, or you can’t be a politician, because you lack the proper understanding of things!” What they mean in reality is that I lack the corruption to succeed. This what some officials told me. [laughter]

Now, after the elections, it’s a funny situation—64,000 people voted for me. So in a discussion with a journalist, who is launching a blog in Paris and who voted for me, I told her that half of them probably are interesting for us and represent the future. She said, “No, no, no! Not half, all of them! Because to vote for you, requires someone really connected to ideas and to the future, and all these people are interesting.” And then she added, “But a few million others who did not vote for you” are very interested by what you have to say. We got a lot of messages from people, all of a sudden—that’s something you would like because it’s very, in a sense, very American, in the way you would think about it.

I met a man coming back from Germany in a place in central France. He looked at me, and said, “but, but, but—y-you’re Jacques Cheminade!” I said, “yes.” He said, it was like a revelation for him. He had seen me on the screen, and then it was a reality. So, the journalists had tried so hard to make people think it was not a reality, that when they see the reality, it is as though it came out of nowhere! Or like a ghost appearing to him.

Then this person spent at least ten or fifteen minutes talking to me. When I had to leave, he wanted to keep



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*Jacques Cheminade campaigning in Toulouse, France on April 14, 2017.*

talking to me about economic issues. “I don’t understand anything on economics,” he said; “can you explain? You started to do so, but that was not enough, I want to know more. I am a truck driver, and the people from Bulgaria and Romania are ruining my job, but I discuss with them, and they are treated like beasts. I have compassion for them—I don’t share what Marine Le Pen says, but at the same time, these foreigners are taking away our jobs. Can you explain to me what’s happening?”

So we have a lot of that. Also people are very attracted by what I say on culture. They say, “you have a sense of what culture is,” to work for the future, and space, the development of Africa, and transforming the oceans into areas for human development, and not polluting the oceans. That’s very good, now we understand how you define it.

So for many of these people, I’m a visionary, but a visionary is not intended to be the head of a state. I hope you understand what I mean.

## De Gaulle and Today

**EIR:** Not yet, but soon. I mean, it may be immodest to raise, but you deliberately recreated the image of de Gaulle when he was addressing the French from London, by saying France is under financial occupation. When he said, “France has lost a battle, France has not lost the war.” And to me, you inspired the organic leaders of France who have ...

**Cheminade:** Yes, but you have to be cautious with this de Gaulle image. Because the French are very bad about taking responsibility and acting like de Gaulle, but they are very good at speaking about de Gaulle. All the candidates said, “I admire de Gaulle.” In his inauguration speech, Macron said that de Gaulle had saved

France, and that he would follow what de Gaulle said. He praised de Gaulle, then Pompidou, Mitterrand, Chirac, Sarkozy, and Hollande. [All the Presidents of France in succession.] So you have this confusion about the past.

I have to say, my de Gaulle is the de Gaulle that left on June 1940 for England because he could not stand a locked-in situation. And what the press did in this election—they tried to put in the minds of the people, the idea that the situation was locked in with the Presidential candidates Marine Le Pen and Macron. And so they destroyed François Fillon, for example. Fillon is a Thatcherite, so we cannot cry on his political grave, but at the same time, he was for the rapprochement with Russia. He is a Thatcherite in domestic policies, but he knows Putin very well, and he was close to Putin. So he had to be thrown off the stage.

At the same time, look at Xi Jinping, who was the first to call Macron. The Chinese are very interested in France. I think they understand the situation in France better than the Russians do. So the Russians interviewed me three or four times. They were always interviewing me to explain to them why I was against Marine Le Pen. And I said, “Look, not only is she incompetent, but—she may not be xenophobic herself, but she plays the xenophobia card, and it’s very dangerous, because it pits the French Muslims against the other Frenchmen, and this could create a disaster not only in France, but throughout Europe.”

So the Russians want explanations, and at this point, I was astonished: I was interviewed in French, in English, and in Spanish! Three languages. [laughter]

**EIR:** About what happened in the election and what is the situation now, right? That’s basically what they wanted to know?

**Cheminade:** Well, they are Russians, so they understand that they have to work with Macron. They may not like him, but they will try to see what comes out of him. The Chinese, through this Raffarin invitation, are taking the temperature. Everybody is taking the temperature. The problem is, Macron at this point, still has no temperature, so there is nothing to be taken.

He’s very cautious also—you have to understand the person. He’s extremely cautious. He would compare himself in private to Kennedy. Not to Obama, to Kennedy.

**EIR:** Oh, really?

**Cheminade:** Of course. He’s a narcissist, so he thinks he did it by himself, that people helped him—okay, they helped him; he’s a pragmatist, he’s practical, and he got advantages from them. But, he believes that he himself did it. By himself. He’s this type of person. So that’s the situation today.

And France is losing its industry. It is losing the level of public education, all the things that were part of the “French exception,” which was the public health system, public education, and also more or less directed development—all of these are evaporating. For example, today there are at least two or three Frances: There’s the France of the metropolis, of the big cities; then the France of the rural world; and then the in-between. And people work—it’s like in Los Angeles, if you made a comparison to the United States—Paris is full of money and people who work in Paris cannot pay for a house around Paris. So sometimes they’re 150 km, or maybe even 200 km [95 or 125 miles] from Paris, and they travel four or five hours a day to get to work.

So given that situation, most of these people who are enraged, would vote for Le Pen. And the Le Pen party is also divided. There is a Le Pen party in the North, which is pro-working class, strongly social, and even supports the public sector and so on; and the Le Pen party in the South, which is much more xenophobic and liberal. You have a fight between the two, and Marion Maréchal-Le Pen, who is Marine Le Pen’s niece, and represented this wing in the South—she decided to opt out of politics! Everybody thinks she got out because she wants to come back. She wants to rally all the right-wing formations, while Marine Le Pen wanted to make it by herself.

So there are big fights in all parties; the Socialist Party is exploding, the Front National has an internal war, the right-wing is exploding; everything is disarticulating in this period of crisis, and Macron appears as a reference, where all the rest are exploding in all directions.

But he can appear as a reference as long as he’s not in power. As soon as he’s in power, the reference would tend to evaporate!

## Why People Are Coming to Us

**EIR:** Yes. It seems the more important role for *you*, than as—

**Cheminade:** Yes, right. We have to make it in the interior of the country, where there are the best reactions. What’s also interesting is the reactions of the second or third generation of people who came to

France, people mainly from Africa, but not only, who said, “you understand the world, the others don’t.” I was very struck by something that was said in the discussion inside our movement: there are not only the common objectives of humanity, but the common emotions of humanity. So a lot of people coming to us, come on the basis of an emotion connected to the destiny of the Universe. That’s what they have in mind. And they say that the others have only concerns for the destiny of their immediate belongings.

For example, we had a very interesting case, dramatic, but very interesting: He’s a friend of ours who leads a chorus in eastern France. His best friend is a young entrepreneur working with him in the chorus, as a cultural effort that they are organizing together. His friend was supposed to vote for me. But coming back from the polls, he told him—“I am ashamed; I am ashamed, and I feel so bad.” His friend asked, “Why?” He said, “I went to the polls with two ballots, one for Cheminade and the other for Macron. And finally, I voted for Macron, because Macron represented stability for me over the next five years. Where Cheminade represents the future. But I want my firm to succeed, so I finally voted for Macron instead of Cheminade, and I am so ashamed.”

**EIR:** Right! That’s incredible! That’s wonderful.

**Cheminade:** The other thing I want to stress is that people did not vote for foreign policy issues. They were not part of the campaign—which is a scandal, because a French President first has to deal with that. They recognized that we were stressing these issues—the New Silk Road, relations with Russia, and the world role that France would play because France is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

So this was not considered in the vote. But now, it is being considered! Which means that people feel more free now, after the vote, than before the vote, to be interested in what really matters.

**EIR:** Can you say something about your campaign on the issues of space exploration, space travel.

**Cheminade:** Oh, well, I’m known—people that want to slander me, say “the lunar candidacy.”



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*Thomas Pesquet talks to the European press from space.*

**EIR:** Yeah, “he wants to go to Mars,” I know.

**Cheminade:** “To conquer space.” So I said, listen, it’s not to conquer space, it’s to explore it, because if human beings don’t explore, they are imbeciles. And I also said that the French astronaut who is on the International Space Station (ISS), Thomas Pesquet, is studying how to better struggle against nosocomial diseases in hospitals, and about echography at a distance. So, he’s not going into space for tourism; he’s going into space to organize things which are useful on the Earth, to see how it works there, so that mankind then will be able to advance beyond the present into the future. Because it exists, it’s very useful for everybody to know what it is, as a human being: Destiny is that, to explore space.

So it’s very funny because a friend of ours, Jean-Pierre Luminet who is one of the best known experts in space, published the French translation of Edgar Allan Poe’s *Eureka* as a single book [with his own introduction](#). He called the book, *Eureka: The Universe According to Edgar Poe*. I’ve read it, and his attacks against Bacon and Aristotle are violent, and at the same time he praises, as you know, Kepler as the only one having a consistent conception, starting from the unity of the Universe and not from fractions of the Universe. So it’s very funny for the French to have that in front of their noses, because it’s against the British ideology. And the effects of the British occupation of France may not be to be pro-British, but to be against anything that appears to be challenging the rules of the game.

**EIR:** Right! That’s interesting. And there’s a world



revival right now. I'm getting emails about that piece of Edgar Allan Poe's, *Eureka*. It's circulating, and maybe in part because of your campaign. They're discussing it just as you described, all over the world right now, maybe among other things because of your campaign.

## People Know Helga Zepp-LaRouche

**Cheminade:** Well, people know in France that Helga [Zepp-LaRouche] was the author or the inspirer of the New Silk Road. These people know that, at this point. They know it because we had the Schiller conference here two years ago in Paris. So, it's known, but it is not said, and what you have to understand is that it's known, but by what, 10, 15% of the population. At least 50% don't even know my name. Because they're not interested in politics. Part of the population, like in the United States, or even probably worse, is out of politics. As soon as they hear the word "politics" on television, they turn the sound down. So they don't know me.

And as you know very well, a lot of people talk to me in the street. When I go there, they say, "what you did was good, wonderful." I ask, "did you vote for me?" "No, this time, no, but next time." [laughter] I am known: At least our ideas are known for what they are. The slander that this space guy is crazy—working with little green men, and so on—absolutely evaporated.

And also the attacks against Lyn, except in two cases. Because we published a lot on our website, on our understanding, and an account of my meetings with Lyn and what it meant. So, these days, they don't dare to attack. What they are saying now, is that I don't exist. The Anglo-American press, or the British press, pretend I don't exist. In the big debate, for example of the eleven candidates [on April 4], they said that I was "out of it," against several hundred messages saying "you did the right thing, you attacked who needed to be attacked, it was good."

So what they set up in this presidential debate, was a candidate called "Philippe Poutou"—I don't know if you have heard of him, probably not. He's a Trotskyist, and he attacked Marine Le Pen and Fillon saying, "you



Presidential Candidate Jacques Cheminade, in a webcast campaign meeting on April 18, 2017.

avoided a summons from the judges, but I myself, a poor worker, if the judges call me I have to go, or go to jail," blah, blah, blah. Later he was promoted by *Le Monde* as the one who won the debate, and he was also promoted by the *New York Times*, which was funny. And this guy was set up to attack Fillon and Marine Le Pen, and therefore to promote Macron.

So it's a fake democracy. It's not only a democracy without a Republic, but it's a fake democracy. A simulacrum of democracy.

But at the same time, there are a lot of people—I was in Nancy for example, with a few people, and there was even a priest among them. It's a Christian milieu, and they all said, "you changed our lives, because we have taken distance from these things—before, we had no understanding about the world." So you have a lot of that, coming from very little, very small groups, and also at the same time, these two, three, four or five million people—who knows?—who are interested in what we are saying.

**EIR:** Thank you so much. That's wonderful.

**Cheminade:** It is, but it's not enough. Because the challenge is ahead of us, and the work starts now. And some people are discouraged at the fact that we received so few votes. They say, we worked for a year and a half—and we have so little votes. But now it's being overcome, and we are moving ahead with unprecedented potential.

**EIR:** Thank you so much.