

Panel III
The Future of European Nations,
A Cultural and Economic Great Design

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Europe's Future Must Be Inclusive with New Silk Roads and World Land-Bridge

Jacques Cheminade was the first speaker on Panel III of the Schiller Institute conference, on July 1, 2018. He is the leader of Solidarité et Progrès, the LaRouche movement in France. This is an edited transcript.

Let's be clear. The European Union has become a walking shadow, a moral corpse. In Italian, you may say a "*morto qui parla*." But it would be self-destructive to fall into a state of morose self-indulgence, into the comfort of blaming ourselves. Second to the British Empire, pessimism is our main enemy, because it paralyzes our will. Beyond all criticism, there is the idea and the contribution of Europe to human civilization, which is absolutely different and opposed to the European Union. It is a Europe of the nations, a multiple having generated a one, an immortal contribution to humanity that the world needs.

Our task is to awaken such a Europe from its present nightmare, to bring it out from the Valley of the Clueless where it stagnates and turn it into a new beacon of hope illuminating the world's silk roads. De Gaulle did not fear to say that the princess of the legends, France, should be mobilized to build the European cathedral. But, for real and as a metaphor, a cathedral is not a closed shop, it is a landmark for all those who are outside and a place to conceive of, and pray and work hard for a better world for those who enter.

We are far from that—but, because of the world sit-



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uation and our own, we are not allowed to lose. To win, we first have to look inward and from above, make an examination of conscience—a joyful examination of conscience—because to reach above our state of mind towards the needed relatively higher states will free us from the shackles of impotence and recover our self-esteem.

Let's Arise from our European Waterloo

Let's commit ourselves to arise from the mud of our European Waterloo. For more than thirty years, our leaders have neither responded

to the demands of their peoples nor met the challenges of the international situation. As a result, we are withdrawing from change and engaging in a process of balkanization, of decomposition of our identity. We have submitted ourselves to the Empire of the City of London and Wall Street, letting them ruin ourselves and our neighbors in Africa and the Middle East, and then blaming the human beings escaping from those places ruined by our policies, for our misfortunes and woes.

What hypocrisy! At the last European Council of June 28 and 29, our leaders reduced the question of migrants to a thing in itself, trying to transfer to their partners what all see as a burden without the least commitment to a minimum solidarity. Some want to assemble migrants for control in hotspots located in European countries; others want to sub-contract the problem to the

countries where the migrants are coming from; all are unable to conceive anything but hotspots, which are nothing but human triage camps, rather than treating the real causes of migrations. Our leaders throw statistics and figures at each other's faces, reducing human lives to accounting evaluations.

Italy had to abandon *Mare nostrum* at the end of 2014, which was the relatively best humanitarian operation organized by a State, because of the absolute lack of European support. All ended up delegating the job to the NGOs and now blame them as accomplices of the smugglers. With that logic of blame, European ports have been closed to ships carrying the migrants, but in truth, it is all the European leaders that have to be blamed for the criminal inaction of their countries.

I first decided to raise this moral issue because a union of states in which no member considers migrations as a challenge to be solved through massive help in favor of the countries where the migrants are coming from, and where no state organizes itself properly to receive those that come as a potential for the future, is a union that has lost its mandate from Heaven, as the Chinese would say.

The Failed Finite Lifeboat

All European nations share a geopolitical conception of our planet as being a relatively finite universe, a sort of lifeboat which has a limited space to contain a growing population. That is, indeed, the real problem of the European Union: It does not produce real wealth, it does not produce children, and does not welcome foreigners, because it has accepted the rule of a zero-sum



UNHCR/I. Pavicevic
Refugees at the Tovarnik train station in Croatia, waiting for transportation to a refugee camp near Zagreb.

universe, a sort of fortress Europa against the people, but friendly to financial speculation, with a euro that has become the conveyor belt for that speculation.

The European reformers and the so-called populists alike, with a few exceptions, are trying to solve a problem within the terms that have created the problem. None faces the cause, which are the policies of the British Empire, Wall Street and the City of London. Macron has exhibited an oratory talent at France's Sorbonne University or in Greece, but only dealing with words and not with reality.

He calls for a "refoundation of Europe," but within the realm of financial liberalism. He was not capable of endorsing a Glass-Steagall Act when he had the opportunity to do so as adviser and later Finance Minister to Hollande, nor today, even though at least some of the Italian ministers and many of their advisers are calling for it. Macron pretends to be a lead climber, but in reality he's begging for German money to be able to climb, while Angela Merkel messes around with her government and covers up for financial interests which all, like the Deutsche Bank, are potentially bankrupt. Others go in all directions, with no vision. None has the courage to see beyond its own nostrils.



Xinhua/Shan Yuqi
German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) with French President Emmanuel Macron in Berlin, May 15, 2017.

So how can we, here, be morally and culturally optimistic? Because, if we look beyond our terrible state of affairs, since September 2013 there has been a new development: A new model for relations among major powers has been set forth, the model of the new silk roads. This model is based on the principle of absolute respect for the sovereignty of others; it is a new world order based on mutual trust and benefit. The intention,

expressed by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, is to transcend the outdated concepts, such as the clash of civilizations, the Cold War, to go beyond the mere thinking in the geometry of zero-sum games or exclusive clubs. It is precisely the model that should inspire us in Europe today.

Beyond the Liberal Financial Model

Emmanuel Macron, during his January trip to China, said in his Xi'an speech that "we have reached times where France and China can afford to dream together"; reached a point at which "the new silk roads reactivate a collective imagination, an imagination to be shared." Well said, but typical of present European ways, he tries to locate this momentum within a liberal financial model. I would say these are the prison bars of his ideology. There you have a clinical example of today's European failed state of mind: trying to put a nightingale in a cage.

Totally contrary is the Chinese concept of *tianxia*, expanded by Confucius and Mencius, which inspires the policies of Xi Jinping, establishing that when something new comes from outside, it should be adopted inside with an approach which is neither that of an exclusive club nor of a closed shop which adds something without a change, but with a dynamic motion creating the conditions for a higher level of coexistence. "Politics is not, as some would believe, domination by mere force, but the art to create a global cooperation." It is therefore not uniformisation or domination, but what is called in Chinese philosophical terms: "complementarity" with the qualities of inclusiveness, connectivity and attractiveness. Ah, some would say, there you come with an Asian model. Are you sure it will fit for Europe? The answer is no, not only for Europe, it would fit for the whole world.

Tianxia

Why am I so sure? because our great European philosopher, Leibniz, understood it. He wrote, in his *No-vissima Sinica*, and in various letters to his Jesuit friends, that the concept of "social harmony" from the Chinese would enrich European culture! The opportunity was missed then, sabotaged by the feudal oligarchy and the British financiers, but it has left marks, footsteps in our Europe. Interestingly, the concept of "complementarity" meets the Leibnizian one of "completedness"—not a destructive uniformization but a mutually harmonious inspiration. For the West today, it is evidently difficult to grasp this new dynamic of the silk



President Macron and First Lady at the Forbidden City, Beijing, Jan. 10, 2018. Xinhua

roads. The truth is that Europe, as reflected in the question of the migrants, is trapped in the old paradigm of geopolitics and the so-called "free and fair" competition, something which in reality has never existed.

In a provocative book titled, *The Rape of Europe*, Robert Salais, a French historian, describes how right from the beginning, the European Union was under the double rule of free trade and, worse, financial liberalization against the very conception of sovereign nation states. This is my point: Europe should be freed from this financial and ideological cage, as exemplified by the case of Macron and almost all European leaders. We could say that Europe has to be freed from such an original sin that is promoted more and more with a vindictive proselytism absolutely opposed to the Confucian and Leibnizian notion of harmony.

The European Union, in other terms, is not a harmonious union, but an inductive/deductive construct, based on codes, standards and rules that they call "instructions"; it is based on fixed categories, and as such, bound to self-destroy, fading into nothing for lack of creativity. Not destroyed by others, but by its own anti-creative axioms, its mental closedness. I see today's European Union as an endless set of polygons (France calls itself a Hexagon), unable to get to the superior order of the circle that Cusa described, each polygon seeing itself as the reality, or pretending to be the circle; each seeing itself as a oneness, unable to understand the superior principle of rotation which creates the circle.

Beethoven's Harmony, Not Cacophony

What angers me the most is to see a counter-culture expanding everywhere, banalizing human perceptions and appetites, from ultra-violent video games

to the imbecility of the “world music.” The worst example is what Macron organized on the steps of the Elysée Palace to celebrate the “Day of Music” on June 21. He who pretends to like philosophy and the pomp and riches of the Court, invited a bunch of DJ stars who transformed the Palace in a giant night club where they “sang” such things as “come, come to dance, you motherfucker” and “Let’s burn this house tonight, let’s burn it from top down” or “shit everywhere, she was [unprintable in *EIR*],” etc. . . . All were of course half naked and hip-hopping, giving the worst image of black Africans to an already disoriented population.

No wonder the children’s concentration span is falling and, except for their attention to these voyeuristic shows, a majority of adults is no longer curious about how others live. This happens in our Europe where the social points of reference are collapsing, in a society controlled by those who pretend to fight for human rights. Europe has lost its positive sense because the ideals of social value are disappearing and there is no project for a better future. At best, people see the European Union and the euro as a protection against the others, a sort of giant condom, and certainly not as an Ode to Joy. See Macron pretending to love Europe and playing Beethoven’s Ode to Joy like a mantra, while at the same time transforming the Elysée Palace into a giant and depraved night club.

Again, why am I nonetheless so sure that Europe is fit to join the New Paradigm? Because, as exemplified by Leibniz, Europe has within it the resources which can be revived and inspired. Europe and the United States have historically been the leaders of an active form of humanism.

It is Nicholas of Cusa, so dear to Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who explained how a human mind can create a higher order where all differences are transcended. In his late writings, he referred to it as the *posse facere omnia* or the *posse ipsum*, not knowledgeable by the human mind as a fixed point, but only through the becoming, the moment when human creativity meets the process of the universe, as when the light manifests itself in visible objects. It is in those moments that a human being is really, creatively human, contributing with new discoveries to the future of society, beyond the formal, established rules of logics, at a level where what was apparently contradictory is no longer so, that is, at a higher order. It is what Cusa called the “coincidence of the opposites,” an inspiration to

reach into the unknown future, something that the instructions of the European Union forbid.

The Best of Europe Instead

We can therefore say that as a construct, the European Union has raped the best of European culture, which our mission is to revive. The higher order in the macrocosm can only exist if there is the maximum possible development of all microcosms. Human beings should develop each in their maximum way and act in the interest of each other, and all nations should develop each in their maximum way and act in the interest of each other to have a harmonious world. It is the spirit of the Peace of Westphalia: To overcome war, you have to base your foreign policy on the curiosity for and the interest of the other.

It is the principle of a true Republic, and it is not only complementary but springs from the same cognitive and emotional source as *tianxia*. The principle is Humanity first, the aspiration for human beings and nations alike where, as Schiller said, duty and passion, necessity and freedom are one.

We have that in the storage drawers of our history. So let’s stop our petty quarrels, let’s stop behaving like children in a tragic playground and reread our philosophical classics to meet the ones of the East, and find our inspiration in Lyndon LaRouche’s *Earth’s Next Fifty Years*, written in 2004 but reaching through our future. I would also advise you to read Rabelais and Heine, especially Rabelais, to reject the unduly and criminal ruling powers with the weapon of creative laughter, against all careerists and courtesans regurgitating the answers and moods expected by the principalities and powers of a self-destructive world. Glass-Steagall, a National Bank, credit for infrastructure and development, fusion and the more advanced contributions of science: the four Laws of Lyndon LaRouche, not as proselytism to convert but as a common inspiration to build together.

Let me end, related to what I said, with a quote of Confucius: “If you meet a man of high value, try to be like him; if you meet a mediocre man, try to identify his shortcomings in yourself.” This is one of the secrets to reach the *ren*—the sovereign good for the advantage of the other—in a harmonious world, to be the true citizen of a Republic or of a more perfect Union, not its caricature inhabited by self-satisfied nonentities. It is our instrument to reach into a future, to rediscover Europe as a pathway to the World Land-Bridge.