

# LaRouche Charges: ‘Slavery Reparations’ Are a Ponzi Scheme

by Nancy Spannaus

Back in the middle of the 1960s, when the civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King was expanding the purview of its organizing into issues of the collapsing economy, a rats’ nest of police agents, typified by Newark’s Amiri Imamu Baraka, Harlem’s “Maulana” Ron Karenga, and the “Black Nationalist” Stokely Carmichael, appeared on the scene to split and demoralize the movement. A less militant wing of this counterinsurgent effort was comprised of what used to be called “poverty pimps,” a group of black hustlers out to “get theirs” at the expense of everyone else, in the midst of the collapse of the U.S. economy.

To a large degree, this harum-scarum group was successful. In the wake of the assassination of Dr. King, by forces minimally aided by government agencies like the FBI, no national leader emerged to fill the shoes of a civil rights leader dedicated to the principles of human rights for all peoples, and thus to unite Americans around the fight for universal rights to justice, both economic and political.

The only national American leader since, who has taken up Dr. King’s legacy of politics based on *agapē*, a love for all mankind, and pushed beyond him, has been statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who himself began to lead what became an international political movement in the 1966-68 period.

Thus, it is with great authority that LaRouche has charged the heirs of the 1960s “Black Power” movement—now resurfaced and expanded into the Movement for Reparations for African-Americans—as the authors of a “Ponzi scheme.” After an encounter with pro-reparations spokesmen on an African-American radio show July 31, LaRouche blasted the proponents of reparations, noting that they were misleading millions into demanding monies they would never see, while they, the “leaders,” might collect monies from their masters, for organizing the scam.

## What 'Reparations' Says It Wants

The current drive for "African Reparations" is being organized by a coalition which calls itself the Durban 400—a cluster of black nationalist groups apparently headed by the National Black United Front (NBUF)—and the so-called December 12th Movement International Secretariat. The Durban 400, which had attended the Durban, South Africa World Conference Against Racism in the Fall of 2001, issued a call for a Millions for Reparations Mass Rally back in November 2001. The rally, scheduled for Aug. 17, 2002 in Washington, D.C., is organized around the crassest of slogans: "They owe us!" Philadelphia radio host Reggie Bryant, one of those debating LaRouche on July 31, got down further: "I have no interest in universal principles. I don't care about mankind. Just show me the money."

Aug. 17 was chosen, the organizers say, because it's the 115th anniversary of the birth of the "Back to Africa" movement established by Marcus Garvey.

The Reparations Movement traces its current momentum to certain international actions, including the First Pan African Conference on Reparations held in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 1993; the World Conference Against Racism, of Fall 2001, which declared African slavery a "crime against humanity"; and then the United Nations Commission on Human Rights decision, in the Spring of 2002, to establish a Working Group for African Descendants in the United States.

Propaganda for the Reparations movement is being promoted in African-American papers all around the country, including in the Nation of Islam's *The Final Call*.

According to an article by Dr. Conrad W. Worrill, head of the NBUF group, which appeared in *The Final Call* in June, the movement is demanding reparations from "the United States Government and a variety of private institutions and corporations who all benefitted from the more than four hundred years of free slave labor from African people in this country."

In fact, the United States as a nation did *not* benefit from slavery. As shown by American System economists such as Friedrich List and Henry Carey, the slave system looted not only the bodies of the slaves, but the wealth of a nation.

Unquestionably, slavery was a hideous wrong, one imported into the United States from the oligarchical system of Europe, and including the ideology that African people were less than human. Today, however, the leaders of the Reparations movement are responding with the same racist outlook, turned upside down. In one recent propaganda piece for Reparations, for example, a Dr. Bobby E. Wright (now deceased) is quoted as attributing to white people "an underlying biologically transmitted proclivity that is rooted deep in their evolutionary history."

In addition, the demand for reparations is the equivalent of demanding crumbs from the slave-master's back door—just at the time that he is being forced to sell the plantation due to bankruptcy! The great wealth that is allegedly to be won through these demands, isn't there.

## LaRouche's Perspective: Fix the Whole System!

In other words, the reparations fight is going to do nothing but divert people from the struggle to establish the new monetary system which the entire world needs in order to survive. LaRouche put it this way in his July 31 interview on Washington, D.C. radio station WOL:

"Reparations is a loser. There are things we should fight for, if we were not pessimistic, and were not tempted to substitute a desire to get some money—quick money—which we'd never get; and substitute that for fighting for what we *can* get. The point is that: In politics, when you're dealing as a minority in politics, you have to find ways of influencing the entire process. Now, you have to go to the question of principle. The question of principle is people's rights. The African-American, so-called, has been deprived of rights for a long time. Slavery is just one of the [depravations]. Therefore, the time has come: How do we get this thing fixed?

"My view is, that, what you have to do is, you have to get people unified around the idea of universal rights—as we did with the civil rights movement, with Martin Luther King. There are certain universal rights. We fight for those rights, and we demand that others who have the same interests, as human beings, fight with us to get us *our* rights, because it's their rights too, that are at stake. We've seen when the turn against Martin came, the assassination of Martin, the result of that: We've seen that the great movement of civil rights, which was inspiring in its time, has taken one defeat after the other, all the way down the road. There have been compensations, of some type for some situations, but generally, the poor are poorer than ever before."

*EIR* is carrying out further research into the scam artists behind the reparations movement, but certain pedigrees are obvious. The N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) group has a filthy record of acting as police agents against Lyndon LaRouche, and his fight for the welfare of all Americans. The same can be said for the National Black United Front, which has been at the forefront of building racial tensions around the country.

Then, there's the question of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, which is well-known for using the lure of money (as well as other lusts) to entice African-Americans, and many others, out of principled political activity, into destructive dead-ends such as the reparations movement. Moon, the kind of convicted felon whom sections of the U.S. Establishment, including many around the Bush Administration, love, has recently bought heavily into Minister Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, and it is unlikely to have been without a *quid pro quo*. Are we perhaps dealing with the results of "Moonshine," here?

It wouldn't be the first time the drug and gun-running Moon sect ran filthy operations to destroy a population. If they offer you money, watch out!