

Jackson Hole As The ‘Temple of Doom’

by the Editors

The Aug. 25 Jackson Hole Federal Reserve conference made Chairman Ben Bernanke’s call for a return to Roman-style imperialism, together with the onrush of Lyndon LaRouche’s forecast of Loudoun County, Virginia’s “Ground Zero”-centered collapse of the U.S. mortgage-bubble, the leading theme of relevance in the currently escalating international discussions of world policies for the immediate crisis-ridden future of the planet as a whole, LaRouche said on Aug. 26.

That theme was the focus of a notable leading editorial in the London *Guardian*, by “Stop-the-War-Coalition” spokesman Andrew Murray, who defined the drive toward empire by Anglo-American circles, typified by the names of President G.W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair, as “the central issue of our time.”

Essentially, Bernanke has now, thus, proposed publicly, to overthrow the U.S. Federal Constitution. Technically, Bernanke is almost as bad at history as he is in the field of economics. His adoption of the Roman Empire as the model for the kind of imperialism which his faction is attempting to pull off, is just one more symptom of his incompetence in the fields of both history and economics. What he is actually working to bring into being is the model of the *ultramontane* alliance of medieval Venetian financier oligarchs and the Crusading Norman chivalry: not an empire under a Roman-style world emperor, but a hodge-podge like that Fourteenth-Century New Dark Age into which the *ultramontane* system degenerated, after its defeat of the last Staufer remnant of Charlemagne’s reforms.

Nonetheless, with all of this and that to be discussed, fervently, the presently breaking global conditions of spreading asymmetric warfare, general economic breakdown-crisis, and lunatic drives of certifiable madmen, such as the Nero-like George W. Bush, Jr., have brought the world as a whole

into a U.S.-centered, global maelstrom of tumultuous tragic indecision, which might be the end of civilization on this planet for generations to come.

The threat of degeneration into Fourteenth-Century-style imperialism, and its doom, is the immediate reality of currently converging trends. But that discussion, however necessary, does not provide a remedy for such an outcome. It is time for a new Renaissance, like that centered on the mid-Fifteenth-Century great ecumenical Council of Florence. Discussing the dead will not bring the doomed back to life. A positive, practicable alternative to the present, inevitably onrushing breakdown-crisis of the existing world and U.S. economic system, a true renaissance, must be the foremost topic on our agendas.

The issue posed to all humanity at this moment is the issue of the LaRouche PAC’s Sept. 6 Berlin webcast conference (see *Feature*). It is necessary to discuss the present crisis. It were preferable, rather than attempting to write the autopsy report for a soon-dead civilization, to focus our attention on the alternative, as this is already indicated by several reports produced by spokesman LaRouche, in the run-up to that Berlin webcast conference.

There is no region of the world, which is an exception to the doom inherent in the presently habituated trends in decision-making in the transatlantic community. What is going on in any part of the world, is irrelevant, except as it bears on changing radically the recent trends in policy-shaping which have dominated the transatlantic world and beyond since the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, and, especially, since the unsolved assassination of the President John F. Kennedy who was considered a threat by those who were determined to prevent a return to the paradigmatic economic policy-shaping typified by President Roosevelt. When the

Kennedy assassination is viewed in the context of the attempts on Charles de Gaulle, and on others of similar policy-characteristics, and taking into account the accelerating ouster of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, and the Congress for Cultural Freedom and American Family Foundation crowds, there is no real mystery concerning the actual motive, and general nature of the source of the relevant orders in these cases.

Documentation

Bernanke's Imperialism

In his keynote speech, "Global Economic Integration: What's New and What's Not?" at the Federal Reserve's 30th annual economic symposium held Aug. 25 at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke insisted that the U.S. government must resist policies of the American System of physical economy—e.g., protectionism and investment in infrastructure—and instead, should follow in the footsteps of the Roman Empire and British East India Company, through globalization.

Bernanke praised the Romans' "far-flung empire," saying its "unification promoted trade and economic development." Next, he hailed the "trading companies created by the English and the Dutch," which controlled much of trade in the 16th Century. Globalization took "another major leap forward" during the post-Napoleonic period (1815-1913), Bernanke said, when trade followed a "core-periphery" pattern, in which manufactured goods flowed from core countries to those on the periphery, while raw materials and agricultural products flowed in the other direction. And he praised "Britain's embrace of free trade and free capital flows" in the 19th Century.

"One important exception" to this pattern was "the United States, which, over the course of the 19th Century, made the transition from the periphery to the core," he noted. "The share of manufactured goods in U.S. exports rose from less than 30% in 1840 to 60% in 1913."

Bernanke spoke out against needed infrastructure investment, in favor of speculation in financial markets which, he said, are "more mature." "In the 19th Century, international portfolio investments were concentrated in the finance of infrastructure projects—such as the American railroads—and in the purchase of government debt. Today, international investors hold an array of debt instruments, equities, and derivatives, including claims on a broad range of sectors."

Bernanke called on policymakers to resist those who are "seeking the passage of protectionist measures," instead urging Washington to build a consensus to reap the "potential benefits" of increased globalization.