

days-long blaze.

The fire broke out when part of a 60-car freight train carrying hydrochloric acid and other hazardous materials, derailed in a tunnel under the center of the city. In chain-reaction effects, a water main broke, whose flow created a 1.2-foot-high pool of water in the vicinity; telecommunications wires were burned, cutting off phones and Internet; and other breakdowns ensued, while persisting clouds of black smoke covered a wide part of the city.

The tunnel is 1.7 miles long, and 106 years old. It was a wonder of construction at the time it was started, in the 1880s, using over 30 million bricks, and requiring engineering innovations to deal with a 1.35-degree gradient. It was completed in May 1895, and allowed efficient, modern transportation services right into the City center to serve the port, and also the north-south, and western rail corridors, by its connection to Camden Yards. Passenger transit went through the tunnel until 1958. But the tunnel was never upgraded nor maintained.

Being 27 feet wide, the tube was originally built for two trains to pass at the same time. So in recent decades, when wider widths for freight trains were approved, only one train could pass through at a time. Meanwhile, under deregulation, rail company mergers meant that more and more freight trains were consolidated to run along the few remaining routes—such as that cutting through Baltimore—while other routes were shut down. ConRail cargo was carried on CSX lines through the city.

At the same time, Camden Yards was converted from rail, to the home of sports arenas (ironically, one briefly named for the now-bankrupt PSINet Stadium).

In 1985, a Federal study stated explicitly that running flammable and toxic cargo on the Baltimore tunnel route should be stopped, because of fire danger, entrapment of crews, and the dense population of the city site. On July 18, fire broke out, with pressure and flames like a bazooka—just as the experts had predicted. Under post-industrialism and deregulation, the warnings had been ignored.

### **Impoverished Schools**

The schooling crisis is stark. More than 30% of Baltimore's adult population lacks a high school diploma. In the City of Baltimore, a whopping 84% of public schools have 50% or more of their students on free or reduced-price meal programs, which means that these students are either at 130% of the poverty level (free meals) or 185% of the poverty level (subsidized meals). In fact, 60% of the public schools have 75% of their students on the free or subsidized meal program—a standard measure of poverty in the education field.

It has long been known that an individual student's poverty level affects academic achievement, but the level of poverty schoolwide also has an effect on an individual student's achievement *whether or not that student is in poverty*. The U.S. Department of Education's *Prospects* report in 1993

showed that even though non-poor students perform consistently better than their low-income classmates, the performance of non-poor students declines as the proportion of their classmates below the poverty line increases. The report found that “students in low-poverty schools score from 50-75% higher in reading and math than students in high-poverty schools.”

Furthermore, the report finds a kind of “tipping point,” where school poverty depresses scores of *all* students, in schools where at least half the students are eligible for subsidized lunches, and seriously depresses the scores when more than 75% of students live in low-income households. In 1999, Baltimore City had three times as many students in poverty as the next closest county in the metropolitan area, and, while

## **LaRouche on Epidemiology In the City of Baltimore**

*On Oct. 12, 2005, at an international LaRouche PAC webcast in Washington, D.C., Lyndon LaRouche spoke of the situation in Baltimore, in his discussion of the necessity of ending genocide in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere, by returning to the “characteristic features” of the concepts of the General Welfare and the Common Good, as understood in modern European society.*

Let's take one case, we have a case right here, in nearby Baltimore. You have an area which we call “the Blob.” It's called the “Blob,” because it's a case in which the principles of Dirichlet's Principle of Riemann applies to epidemiology. You have a section of a city—remember, Baltimore once had a certain degree of prosperity during World War II: It was an industrial city; you had the Bethlehem Steel works, and shipping and so forth, were all centered there. And you had an indigenous population of largely African descent, which was becoming prosperous, developing homes, normal lives.

In the course of the past period, especially the 1970s, this characteristic of Baltimore was destroyed. Baltimore has been transformed. It's been transformed in two ways. In one sense, it's been gentrified—which is really a horrible thing to do to anybody—at high prices, along the waterfront. What used to be a prosperous waterfront is now an area of gentrification, of useless people thinking they're important. But then, to maintain this population in Baltimore, you also require a slave quarter: a population which services the menial work of maintaining the gentrified part of the population.

68.4% of the students received subsidized meals, only 17% had “satisfactory” performance on the MSPAP competency tests. Only 11% of schools in the five counties surrounding Baltimore have 50% or more students eligible for subsidized meals; in Baltimore City, 84% are eligible.

Poverty also generates many more remedial special education requirements. Baltimore City schools spent one-third of their unrestricted education funds on the 18% of the students in special education in 1997. As a result, the city ranked *last* in spending per pupil in regular education. The State of Maryland has fought against subsidizing Baltimore’s school system, with its poor property tax base, adopting an attitude like that of genocidalist William Paddock, who said of Mexico’s poor: “Lock the borders and let them scream.” A 1998

report by the Government Accounting Office ranked Maryland last in efforts to equalize funding to all schools. Currently, the Baltimore School System is under intense pressure from the state to close a dozen or more schools, to cut 2.7 million square feet of operating space, for a student enrollment that has dropped from 126,000 to 86,300.

### **Cycling Through Prisons, Jails**

Without the expectation that school will lead to a high-paying job in the mainstream economy, large numbers of students, and even a *majority* in certain neighborhoods, will end up in the revolving door to prison or jail called “Corrections Department supervision.” Fully 56% of all young Baltimore City African-American males, are currently in the Cor-

Now, such a population is not one which, on the average, is raised on a certain level of productivity—no! It is a process population, which is dying at the same time it’s used! It’s just like what you saw on the beaches when the tsunami hit on the coasts in Asia, in last year’s tsunami. People who were considered useless, were running the errands and providing the sexual entertainment, for European and American visitors who are there as tourists, in tourist and entertainment centers. So therefore, in order to be convenient to these crazy Americans and Europeans, who want to have sex on the beaches, or by the beaches, you have a population of very poor people who live in shacks in this area, and in very poor conditions; and high rate of disease!

And when we look through some of the things in this area, and you look at things like HIV and you start to make the dots of the co-factors, in some of these areas, you find that instead of having an area, where you have many dots of co-factors, you’ve got the whole thing is almost solidly black co-factors: which is the kind of cesspool, in which AIDS spreads fantastically. Because everybody transmits everything to everybody out of this kind of area.

And usually, the center of this thing, is something like a prison system. You go into the prison system, you’ll find the concentration of disease of the populations coming in and out of the prison, in a *dynamic model*—not your normal statistical model, but a dynamic analysis of this, will show you a process, where you have an area in a city, which has this function. Of people who are in the process of dying, who are all black in terms of dots of disease-sharing, and who often spread AIDS, tuberculosis, and everything else at a high rate, because everybody who kisses everybody, spreads all the diseases.

Some people are looking for a specific agent: They’re not looking at the totality of the problem. They’re looking at the *disease of poverty! The disease of filth! The disease*

*of terrible conditions!* And every other disease imaginable. And it’s all this area.

And then, you can find an area, you can demark precisely: *It’s where the people who are part of this operation live.*

Now, you want to find out, a part of the world where you find this commonly. It’s called Africa.

### **A Crime Against Humanity**

This is genocide: *To condone this kind of condition of humanity*, where you create a dynamic condition—not one disease!—a dynamic condition: nutrition, sanitation, diseases, infectious agents, all these things together, this brew! You’re committing genocide! And that’s what we have to deal with in Africa.

So therefore, we, because we are human, as a human race, if we get our act together with a conception of Eurasian development, Eurasian culture as an emergent development—we, combined, *must deal with this great crime against humanity, in Sub-Saharan Africa.* We have to go into an area where disease is of this character; conditions of life of this character; where the death rates are such that you don’t have family structure; all these kinds of conditions. That is what a Eurasian policy means to me.

First of all, we’ve got to take this world and *come back out* of what we’ve known before, and finally begin to consider, as nation-states, cooperating nation-states, the condition of the planet as a whole. We have to therefore develop a concept of Eurasian culture, as a process of extending the benefits of European experience, including technologies, into this kind of development in Eurasia generally. We then, jointly, through Eurasian culture, we must attack this great sin, this *great evil*, that’s been done in Sub-Saharan Africa: And we must say, that is a mission to make this planet self-respecting, once again.