

1990: year of lost opportunities

January

February

March

1 Polish currency is devalued by 31.5%—the 12th devaluation since September.
15 Canadian speculator Robert Campeau's U.S. retail firms, Federated and Allied Department Stores, file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.
17 Brazil postpones payment of \$980 million of interest on debt owed to the Club of Paris.
25 President Bush announces aid package for Panama "valued at about \$1 billion"—in theory.

4 Debt renegotiation agreement is signed by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, under the Brady Plan.
8 German Chancellor Helmut Kohl calls for immediate economic and monetary union of East and West Germany.
13 Drexel Burnham Lambert, the number-one U.S. junk bond investment bank, declares bankruptcy.
19 Strikes in Argentina against President Carlos Menem's austerity policies.
20 Riots in Venezuela against President Carlos Andrés Pérez's austerity policies.
21 Tokyo Nikkei Dow stock index falls 3%, the sharpest one-day fall since the October 1987 crash.

5-8 Price rises and budget cuts in Argentina trigger strikes and riots.
20 Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez announces agreement with creditor banks to reduce debt service under the Brady Plan.
24 U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady meets Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in California, and tells him that contractions of Japanese stock market and yen currency market are "strictly a domestic Japanese problem."
30 Federated Stores, Inc., of the Campeau empire, files for bankruptcy protection.
31 Mass demonstrations in London against Margaret Thatcher's "poll tax."

1 Vaclav Havel is inaugurated President of Czechoslovakia.
3 Panama's General Noriega surrenders to U.S. troops.
5 President Bush dispatches naval convoy to international waters around Colombia, to monitor Colombian and other ships "for drugs."
13 Pope John Paul II's "State of the World" speech calls on West to help countries of Eastern Europe develop based on moral values, not "hedonism and practical materialism."
18 Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov announces callup of Army reservists, in connection with new outbreaks of violence in Transcaucasus.
24 "Cocaine" allegedly found at headquarters of Panama's General Noriega turns out to be corn tamales.
28 Romania's National Salvation Front regime ransacks headquarters of the two largest opposition parties.
31 Pope appeals to world to aid Africa, during tour of five of Africa's poorest countries.

2 South African President F.W. de Klerk lifts ban on African National Congress.
5-7 Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Plenum highlights economic crisis.
10 German Chancellor Kohl visits Moscow, preparing the groundwork for German unification.
11 African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela released from jail in South Africa, after 27 years.
15 Swedish Premier Ingvar Carlsson resigns, in fight over austerity package that would include a two-year strike ban.
15 Latvia's Supreme Soviet calls for independence from the Soviet Union.
17 Violent confrontation in Nepal between opposition and government.
18 Japan's Liberal Democratic Party wins elections to lower house, returning Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to office.
21 Czechoslovak President Havel addresses joint session of U.S. Congress.
25 Violeta Chamorro, candidate of Nicaragua's National Opposition Union, defeats Sandinista President Daniel Ortega.
27 Supreme Soviet of U.S.S.R. approves strengthened presidential powers.

4 Regional elections in U.S.S.R. result in widespread defeats for Communist Party candidates.
11 César Gaviria Trujillo wins Colombian presidential primary.
11 Lithuania declares its independence from the Soviet Union, elects Vytautas Landsbergis as President.
12 Israel's government, under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, collapses.
12-13 Mikhail Gorbachov is named President of the U.S.S.R.
15 London *Observer* journalist Farzad Bazoft is executed in Iraq for espionage.
15 Fernando Collor de Mello is inaugurated as President of Brazil, launches economic "shock program."
18 Free elections in East Germany. Christian Democrats emerge as strongest party, with 40.9% of the vote.
23 Colombian Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds, a prominent anti-drug fighter, is forced to resign.
28 Three Iraqis arrested at London's Heathrow Airport, as they allegedly try to smuggle nuclear detonators.

6 Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark gives press conference in Panama City, condemning the "conspiracy of silence" surrounding civilian deaths in the U.S. invasion of Panama.
13-15 Third International Martin Luther King Tribunal convenes in Washington, D.C.
19 Attorney General Richard Thornburgh says U.S. will "not tolerate wrongdoing that violates American criminal law anywhere in the world"—the Thornburgh Doctrine.
22 Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, upholds conviction and jailing of Lyndon LaRouche.

1 LaRouche associate Donald Phau is convicted in political frameup trial in Roanoke, Virginia.
10 Virginia Democratic Party's Central Committee opts not to oppose re-election bid of Republican Sen. John Warner, refuses to recognize candidacy of LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus.
14 Department of Justice files civil RICO suit against International Longshoremen's Association.
28 Supreme Court approves "Thornburgh Doctrine," under which the U.S. can investigate and seize foreign nationals on foreign soil if it can claim they violated U.S. law.

4 John Cardinal O'Connor of New York delivers Lenten sermon denouncing heavy-metal rock music and satanism.
12 Illinois judge declares a mistrial in political frameup trial of three LaRouche associates—Patricia Noble Schenk, Ron Fredman, and Richard Blomquist—after the prosecution's chief witness suffers a stroke. Charges are subsequently dropped.
13 President Bush says U.S. will not recognize Lithuania.
13 LaRouche Democrat Harley Schlanger, candidate for U.S. Senate, wins 25% of the vote in Texas Democratic primary.

Economics

International

National

Economics

1 Shearson Lehman Hutton announces losses of up to \$917 million in its first quarter, the largest quarterly loss in Wall Street's history.
 25 More than 1 million farmers and supporters take to the streets in European Community nations to oppose farm price cuts.

1 Negotiators from East and West Germany agree on basic details of German Monetary Union, the first step toward formal reunification.
 3 U.S. Federal Reserve Board's Advisory Council meets with governors of the Federal Reserve System to discuss the crisis in the U.S. banking system.
 23 U.S. Treasury Secretary Brady says U.S. will need to borrow \$89-132 billion more than anticipated to cover debts from federally insured savings and loan institutions.

7 EIR holds seminar in Bonn on LaRouche's Paris-Berlin-Vienna "Productive Triangle" development plan.
 15 Donald Trump fails to meet \$85 million in payments due to his creditors.
 22 Bush administration lists spotted owl as "threatened species," thereby jeopardizing timber industry.
 22 Bush announces plan for financial police apparatus to crack down on savings and loan managers and others.
 28 President Bush proposes hemispheric free trade zone, "Enterprise for the Americas Initiative."
 29 Ninety-three nations at London Conference on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer call for ban on chlorofluorocarbons by 2000.

International

1 Mass rallies in Ukraine in support of independent Lithuania.
 2 Iraq's Saddam Hussein threatens to use chemical weapons against Israel if Israel bombs Iraq again.
 3 Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain is kidnaped in Mexico by U.S. agents and brought to El Paso, Texas, to stand trial for alleged involvement in assassination of U.S. agent Enrique Camarena.
 8 Alberto Fujimori wins first round of Peruvian presidential elections.
 9 First free election in Hungary since 1945 ousts the communists.
 12 East German Parliament votes in the first head of a non-communist government in 45 years, Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.
 12 Israeli fanatics from the Ateret Cohanim cult stage a provocation at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, leading to riots, gassing, and the injury of the Greek Orthodox patriarch.
 18 Soviet Union imposes economic blockade on Lithuania.
 21-23 Trilateral Commission meets in Washington, D.C., endorses "global warming" hoax.

1 Gorbachov and other Soviet leaders have to leave the Lenin Mausoleum in humiliation during May Day parade, when they are booed by a crowd of 100,000.
 6-8 World Jewish Congress meets in West Berlin.
 6-13 Pope John Paul II visits Mexico, criticizes both Marxism and free market capitalism.
 16-19 North American Conference on Religion and Ecology meets in Washington, launches drive for ecological paganism.
 22 India and Pakistan come close to armed hostilities along the border in Jammu and Kashmir.
 26 Foreign ministers of Baltic states issue declaration that any agreements at Bush-Gorbachov summit concerning the Baltic states are null and void.
 27 César Gaviria Trujillo wins Colombian presidential election.
 28 Russian Parliament elects Boris Yeltsin President of Russian Federation.
 29 Arab summit in Baghdad.
 30 Raid by Palestinian splinter group against Israelis near Haifa.
 30-June 3 Gorbachov in Washington, D.C. for summit meeting with Bush.

6 Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze says Soviets plan to withdraw certain tactical nuclear weapon systems from Eastern Europe.
 6-15 East German police arrest Red Army Faction terrorists.
 7-10 British Prime Minister Thatcher is in Soviet Union, boosting Gorbachov.
 10 Fujimori wins Peruvian election.
 11 New Israeli coalition government is formed, headed by Yitzhak Shamir, but dominated by Ariel Sharon.
 12 Russian Parliament declares Russian sovereignty.
 12-15 Romanian regime deploys thugs against democratic protesters.
 20 Ukrainian Communist Party Congress proclaims Ukrainian sovereignty.
 20 President Bush formally breaks off U.S. talks with PLO.
 23 Manitoba and Newfoundland refuse to ratify Meech Lake Accord governing Canadian unity.
 25 Chinese regime frees dissident Fang Lizhi, in gesture to Bush.
 28 Iraq's Saddam Hussein says war in Mideast is inevitable unless U.S. blocks Israel's thrust against the Palestinians.

National

3 Senate passes Clean Air Act.
 7 Admiral John Poindexter, former national security adviser, is found guilty on five felony charges stemming from Iran-Contra affair.
 12 It is revealed in court that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has attempted to influence Virginia judge Clifford Weckstein, who is presiding over trials of LaRouche associates.
 24 LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus announces she will campaign as an Independent Democrat against Sen. John Warner.
 28 Over 350,000 people demonstrate against abortion, in Washington, D.C.

11 Bush sets goal of putting a man on Mars by 2019, in a speech at Texas Arts and Industries University.
 15 First of many "budget summits" between White House and congressional negotiators.
 23 House of Representatives passes Clean Air Act of 1990, after less than 13 hours of debate.

2 Schiller Institute hosts Martin Luther King Freedom Day Tribunal.
 6 Jesse Jackson in press conference urges Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry not to seek a fourth term in office.
 11 Supreme Court refuses to hear appeal of Lyndon LaRouche.
 20 Lyndon LaRouche, candidate for U.S. Congress, is certified for ballot status in Virginia's 10th CD.
 21 House defeats attempt to amend Constitution to outlaw flag-burning.
 26 Bush says he will raise taxes, in violation of his "Read my lips" campaign promises.

July

- 1 German Monetary Union goes into effect.
- 7 Group of Seven economic summit in Houston, Texas, ends in sharp division between Anglo-Americans and continental Europe.
- 11 Ukrainian coal miners go on a 24-hour warning strike, demanding national independence.
- 16 U.S. Office of Management and Budget Director Richard Darman announces budget deficit of \$168.8 billion for FY 1991—compared to the \$100.5 billion deficit forecast by the administration in January.

August

- 1 Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder announces \$1.4 billion state budget deficit—the biggest since World War II.
- 6 U.N. Security Council imposes economic embargo on Iraq.
- 8 Peruvian President Fujimori announces economic “shock” measures, essentially adopting the program of his opponent, Mario Vargas Llosa.
- 29 U.S. National Security Council approves a plan for six countries to pay the U.S. a total of \$1.1 billion each month to maintain U.S. Armed Forces in Saudi Arabia.

September

- 5 Brazilian President Collor says nuclear energy deals with Germany must be “rethought.”
- 11 U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher says that 35 big U.S. banks will fail in 1990, at a cost to FDIC of \$4-6 billion.
- 12 U.S. GAO estimates that FY 1991 budget deficit will be \$372 billion—nearly four times original projections.
- 19 Businessman Charles Keating charged in S&L fraud case.
- 24 U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet passes resolution on transition to a market economy.
- 25 Japan’s Mitsubishi and Germany’s Daimler-Benz meet to map out program of cooperation.

- 2 Congress of the Soviet Communist Party convenes. Boris Yeltsin resigns.
- 2 Lyndon LaRouche issues warning of imminent Mideast war.
- 5-6 Summit of NATO heads of state discusses “out-of-area” wars.
- 8 Iraq’s Saddam Hussein warns on French TV of danger of Mideast war and Israeli attack against Iraq.
- 12 British Minister of Trade and Industry Nicholas Ridley creates international scandal with vituperative public statements attacking Germany. He resigns a few days later.
- 15-16 Chancellor Kohl meets President Gorbachov in Moscow; they sign agreement ending Soviet military occupation of German territory.
- 16 Parliament of Ukraine votes up declaration of sovereignty.
- 23 Italian newspapers reveal that President Francesco Cossiga had called on July 3 for a government investigation into charges that Oliver North’s Iran-Contra gang was involved in the murder of Olof Palme.
- 25 U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie tells Saddam Hussein U.S. has “no opinion” on Arab border disputes.

- 2 Iraq invades Kuwait.
- 2 President Bush and Prime Minister Thatcher attend Aspen Institute conference.
- 6 Pakistan’s President dismisses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.
- 7 President Bush deploys U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia.
- 7 Gaviria is inaugurated President of Colombia. He brings his opponent, Ernesto Samper Pizano, an advocate of drug legalization, into the cabinet, along with Antonio Navarro Wolf, head of the “reformed” narco-terrorist M-19.
- 12 Helga Zepp-LaRouche kicks off election campaign of the Patriots for Germany party.
- 23 East German Parliament votes to merge its state with West Germany on Oct. 3.
- 28 U.N. “Big Five” reach agreement on ending Cambodian civil war. Khmer Rouge esclates its offensive.
- 31 Gorbachov says “a military solution is unacceptable” in the Persian Gulf.

- 5 Colombian President Gaviria calls off war on drug traffickers in favor of “peace” negotiations.
- 9 Bush and Gorbachov summit meeting in Helsinki. No agreement reached on issues of substance.
- 12 Treaty on German reunification signed by foreign ministers of the four allied powers, plus the two Germans.
- 12-13 U.S. Secretary of State Baker meets in Damascus with President Hafez al-Assad.
- 15-17 Schiller Institute delegation headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche visits Poland.
- 23 Soviet Parliament grants Gorbachov emergency powers to achieve transition to “market economy.”
- 24 King Hussein of Jordan compares crisis to 1914 before World War I.
- 26 Chief of Soviet General Staff Moiseyev warns that U.S. military action in Persian Gulf could trigger world war.
- 27 Lebanon’s Syrian-backed puppet Hrawi regime launches siege against the forces of Gen. Michel Aoun.

- 11 Omnibus Crime Bill passes Senate; it expands death penalty to include “crimes of intent” and crimes against property.
- 17 House rejects a constitutional amendment that would have mandated a balanced federal budget.
- 19 Appeals court upholds ruling that U.S. acted in “bad faith” in bringing involuntary bankruptcy action against companies associated with LaRouche.
- 20 U.S. Court of Appeals overturns Oliver North’s conviction.
- 20 Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. resigns; Bush nominates David Souter to succeed him.

- 3 House passes Civil Rights Act of 1990.
- 7 LaRouche Democrats win 20-45% of the vote in primary elections in the Midwest.
- 10 Washington Mayor Barry’s case is declared a mistrial.
- 22 State of Maryland drops criminal charges against LaRouche associate Keith Levit, citing lack of evidence of any crime.

- 5 Rep. Henry Gonzalez introduces resolution calling for total withdrawal of U.S. forces from Mideast.
- 11 President Bush addresses Congress on the budget, demands that a solution be reached by Sept. 28.
- 11 Sharon Pratt Dixon wins Washington, D.C. Democratic mayoral primary.
- 12 Former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Akins reveals in *Los Angeles Times* a U.S. plan to occupy Saudi oil fields, dating from 1975.
- 29 White House and Congress reach compromise budget package, after President agrees to raise taxes.

October

- 2 U.S. government cuts off food aid to Sudan, because Sudan's President sided with Iraq in Gulf crisis.
- 5 British government reverses its 11-year-long refusal to link the pound sterling to the European Monetary System, the currency bloc of the European nations.
- 22 U.S. 1990 Clean Air Act passes out of House-Senate conference to become law.
- 29 Philippines announces that 40% of its 1991 budget will go to service domestic and foreign debt.
- 31 French and British construction teams link up in English Channel tunnel project, the world's largest undersea tunnel.

November

- 8 New York City Mayor David Dinkins announces huge budget cuts, to try to close a projected \$388 million budget gap this fiscal year.
- 10 GATT trade talks break down in Geneva, when U.S. rejects European compromise proposal on farm subsidies.
- 13 Seven of France's leading industrial spokesmen issue an attack on "post-industrial society" policies.
- 26 Soviet delegation to Washington, D.C. to negotiate grain shipments is turned away empty-handed.
- 28 U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan concedes that there has been a "meaningful downturn in aggregate output."

December

- 1 Rationing imposed in Leningrad for the first time since World War II.
- 5 Germany and the Soviet Union resolve on emergency measures to guarantee the transfer of 250,000 tons of food to the U.S.S.R.
- 6 GATT talks in Brussels break down over U.S. demands that European Community countries cut farm price supports.
- 12 President Bush announces he will mobilize credit for up to \$1 billion worth of U.S. food for the Soviet Union.
- 21 Report on Soviet economy commissioned by Houston summit in July, calls for free enterprise austerity on the Polish model. Report was prepared by IMF, World Bank, OECD, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

- 1 Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian demonstrators demand sovereignty.
- 3 Germany is formally reunified.
- 8 Israeli police massacre 20 unarmed demonstrators in Jerusalem.
- 12 Assassination of Egyptian Speaker of the Parliament Rifaat al-Mahjoub.
- 13 Syrian armies in Lebanon begin to smash the forces of General Aoun.
- 16 Fifty thousand workers protest in Panama City against U.S.-backed government.
- 18 Thatcher's Conservative Party lose in Tory stronghold of Eastbourne.
- 23 Helga Zepp-LaRouche addresses freedom celebrations in Hungary.
- 24 Elections in Pakistan rout the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto and bring the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad (JI) to power.
- 28 U.N. Military Staff Committee holds its first-ever substantive meeting. Proceedings are secret.
- 29 U.N. Security Council approves resolution against Iraq, threatening "further measures."
- 31 German Parliament votes in favor of German-Soviet agreement setting end of 1994 as latest date for withdrawal of all Soviet troops from German territory.

- 1 British Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe resigns.
- 5 Jewish Defense League founder Meir Kahane is assassinated in New York City.
- 6-9 Willy Brandt meets Saddam Hussein and Yasser Arafat in Baghdad.
- 7 Indian government of V.P. Singh loses vote of confidence in Parliament. New government to be headed by Chandra Shekhar of the Janata Dal party.
- 9-11 Gorbachov in Bonn, signs economic cooperation treaty with Kohl.
- 15 EIR holds press conference in Washington, D.C., presenting a dossier on slavery in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
- 19-20 Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSC) summit in Paris.
- 22 Britain's Thatcher resigns, following defeat in her party caucus.
- 23 Bush meets Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Geneva.
- 27 John Major becomes Britain's new prime minister.
- 28 Argentina, Brazil sign accord promising never to engage in nuclear weapons R&D.
- 29 U.N. Security Council passes resolution authorizing "all necessary means" to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

- 2 Elections for national parliament in united Germany. Christian Democrats emerge with 43.8%, the highest any party in Germany ever won in free elections.
- 2 Soviet hardliners Boris Pugov and Gen. Col. Boris Gromov rise to top posts in Interior Ministry.
- 3 Argentinian nationalist officers loyal to Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldin rebel against Army command, are arrested.
- 3 Gen. Hussain Mohammed Ershad, President of Bangladesh, resigns.
- 3-9 Bush tours South America.
- 9 Lech Walesa elected President in second round of Polish elections.
- 9 Elections to Colombian Constituent Assembly, which will rewrite the Constitution. M-19 terrorists win nearly one-third of the seats.
- 9 Israeli Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Ne'eman calls for expulsion of the 1.6 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.
- 17 Gorbachov opens U.S.S.R. Congress of People's Deputies, warning of "the breakup of the state."
- 20 Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze resigns.

- 1 Solicitor General says U.S. will not contest judge's ruling that the forced bankruptcy of three companies associated with LaRouche was unlawful.
- 2 Senate confirms Judge David Souter to Supreme Court.
- 4 House of Representatives rejects the austerity budget submitted by White House and congressional leadership.
- 5 House passes Omnibus Crime Bill.
- 22 Bush vetoes Civil Rights Act of 1990.
- 27 Congress votes to approve a budget package of tax increases and spending cuts.

- 6 U.S. midterm elections. GOP loses one Senate seat, nine House seats, and one governorship.
- 8 President Bush doubles U.S. forces in Persian Gulf.
- 10 CNN broadcasts taped conversations between Noriega and his legal team.
- 13 Political trial begins in Roanoke, Virginia of three LaRouche associates—Laurence Hecht, Anita Gallagher, and Paul Gallagher.
- 22 LaRouche announces he will run for public office in 1992.
- 30 Bush says he will send Secretary of State Baker to Baghdad.

- 3 Defense Secretary Richard Cheney denies that the President requires a congressional declaration of war in order to attack Iraq.
- 13 Michigan judge throws out murder conviction against Dr. Jack Kevorkian.
- 14 Court orders Missouri hospital to withhold food and water from brain-damaged patient Nancy Cruzan.
- 15-16 Schiller Institute sponsors anti-war teach-in in Chicago.
- 15 Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Gen. Colin Powell declines to serve as grand marshal of Martin Luther King Day parade.