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Nations Resume Building the Eurasian Land-Bridge
General Hoar to EIR: We Must Talk To Syria, Iran
LaRouche: 'Ask the Man Who Owns One'

Time to Deal With the Violent Videogame Lobby



EIR

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From the Managing Editor

This news service is the one and only place that you are going to find a coherent understanding of what underlies the senseless violence on the Virginia Tech campus. While we do not know all the details of what led the mentally disturbed student Seung Hui Cho to go on his murderous rampage, we knew, from methodological research dating back to the 1990s, that there had to be a “violent video-games” hook.

It wasn’t long before we found it, as Michele Steinberg and Anton Chaitkin report in our *Feature*. The *Washington Post* spilled the beans on its website, then expunged the passage almost immediately. When questioned, the *Post*’s ombudsman said that they decided it wasn’t all that important.

As of April 20, the word of the *Post* coverup was flying around the Internet, and MSNBC ran a commentary denouncing those who point to the role of point-and-shoot video games, as “worse than ambulance chasers . . . waiting for these things to happen so they can jump on their soapbox” (according to Jason Della Rocca, executive director of the International Game Developers Association).

We provide the reader with extensive documentation, from *EIR*’s previously published record, which makes the case beyond a shadow of a doubt. Actually, the case was already made in 1972, when the Surgeon General of the United States issued a report affirming the connection between media violence and youth violence. Lt. Col. David Grossman (ret.), a leading expert in the field, gave several highly informative interviews to *EIR* after the Columbine and Erfurt schoolyard massacres, which we reproduce here.

Other top stories in this issue include our interview with Gen. Joseph P. Hoar (USMC, ret.), who provides a rigorous analysis of the situation facing the U.S. military, especially in Southwest Asia. In *International*, we have a package on the exciting developments taking place in Eurasia, where infrastructure projects along the Eurasian Land-Bridge are taking off again.

And Lyndon LaRouche initiates a series of articles on the Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidates—and what it will take to shape someone into qualified Presidential material. Clearly, no one on the roster meets that standard at the present time.



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Colonel Grossman, a former U.S. Army Ranger, and former professor at West Point and the University of Arkansas, gave this interview to Helga Zepp-LaRouche on May 4, 2002. He has written two books demonstrating how media and video-game violence is making killers out of children.

42 Gen. Joseph P. Hoar (ret.)

General Hoar, a retired four-star general from the U.S. Marine Corps, was Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command (1991-94), commanding the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf after the 1991 war. He also served in the Vietnam War, as a battalion and brigade advisor with the Vietnamese Marines.

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Virginia Tech Killer Was *Another* Video-Game Fanatic

by Michele Steinberg and Anton Chaitkin

Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche have been right since Columbine. You won't stop school shooting sprees *until* the multibillion-dollar video-“game”-killing-simulator industry is stopped from brainwashing youth.

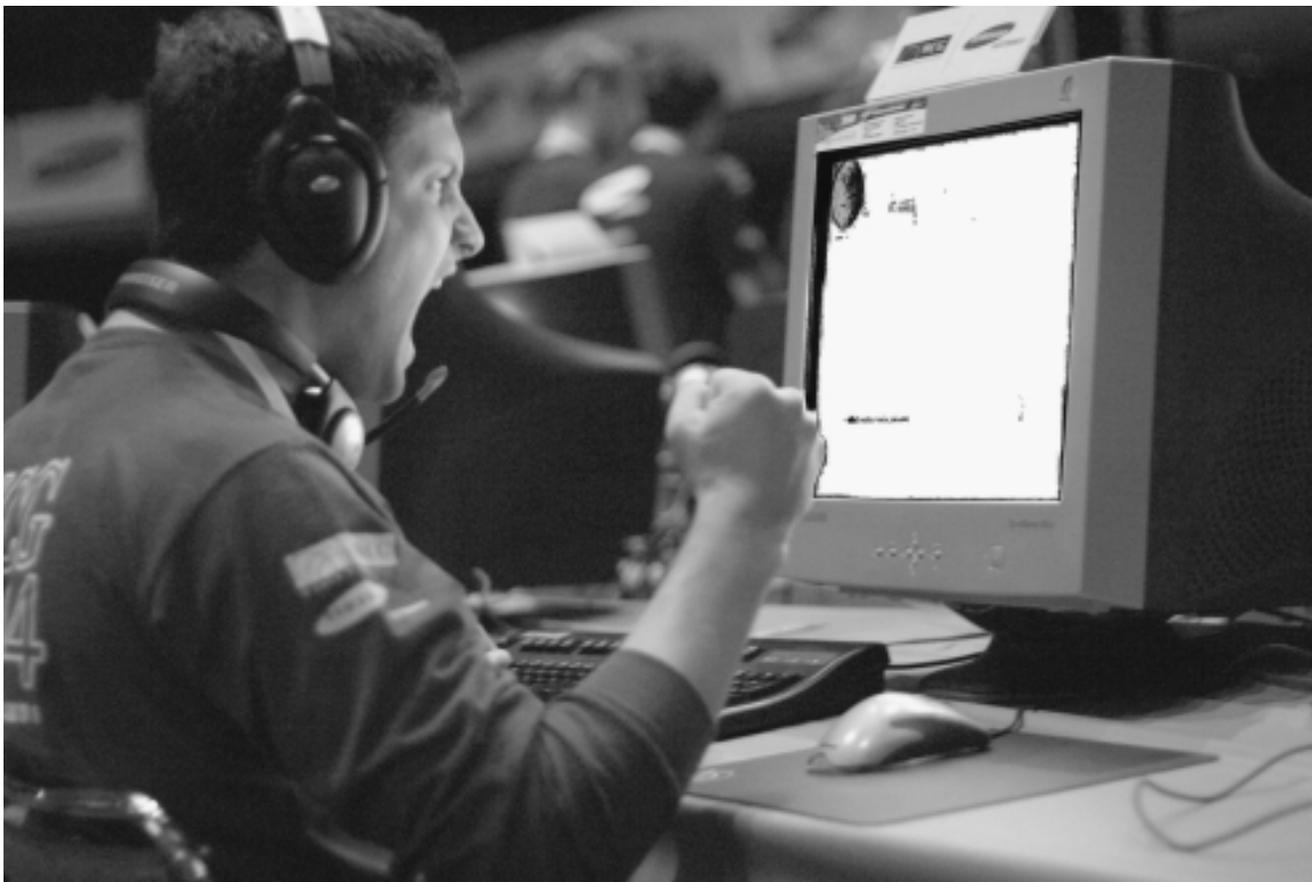
On April 16, within moments of the news reports that mass shootings had occurred on the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Tech, Lyndon LaRouche, chairman of the LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC), flagged the incident as a major national, and international security event. LaRouche noted that the event would shape policy in a major way—especially by those forces in the United States, around Vice President Dick Cheney, who would wish to use any type of security alert as a means to further their police-state powers to silence political opposition—as happened in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Within hours of the Virginia Tech killings—where 33 people died, and at least 15 more were injured—LaRouche outlined “critical questions” to be pursued in the investigation of the incident—questions that were framed by the campaign led by LaRouche, and his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the Civil Rights Solidarity (BüSo) party of Germany to expose the video game industry for mental genocide, or “menticide,” in both brainwashing young people with a cult of violence, and also training them to kill at the same time.

In the campaign that Mrs. LaRouche led in the aftermath of the Columbine killings in Littleton, Colorado in 1999, the video games were identified and exposed as what they really are: “killing simulators,” that are used to produce shooters on “automatic pilot,” in the military and in law enforcement.

Commenting on the Virginia Tech shootings, as the event was breaking, LaRouche stressed that the pattern and profile is what is important to unlock the truth behind the incident.

- Were the shootings random, or aimed at specific targets?
- What was the level of accuracy and skill: How many shots were fired at each victim; i.e., reports that most victims died from one shot indicates a very high level



PRNewsFoto

A player in the World Cyber Games Counterstrike final. Virginia Tech killer Cho Seung-Hui was a fanatical player of “shooter” video games, especially Counterstrike. This fact has been suppressed in media coverage of the April 16 mass shootings.

of accuracy.

- Was there video or Internet shooting training involved? Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s campaign against the youth violence had included interviews and discussions with retired Lt. Col. David Grossman (see below), who had identified that violent “point-and-shoot” video games not only had a mentally damaging effect on young people, but also sufficed as shooter training for rapid-fire, sequenced attacks on moving targets—exactly as occurred in Columbine; Paducah, Kentucky; Portland, Oregon; Erfurt, Germany; and the 1997 killings in Port Arthur, Tasmania, Australia. In all these cases, the video training played an important part.

- Was the level of apparent planning, and skill reflective of a military and/or law enforcement training?

- What were the flaws in the security procedures? It had been reported that there were bomb threats on the campus in the several weeks prior to the shooting—was this related?

- Was there a breakdown of security procedures on April 16, after the first early morning shooting—and if so, why? At one point on the day of the shooting there was a “lockdown” of the campus, which was then lifted. In the span of two hours between the first killing at a dormitory, and the killing of more

than 30 students and professors, at a classroom building about half-a-mile away, the assailant, Cho Seung-Hui, a 23-year-old student on campus, was able to move between the two locations, unnoticed under the camouflage of the “normal” movement of students.

But that security breach could be the least of the problem.

Coverup of Video Training Continues

Less than 24 hours after LaRouche posed these questions, the *Washington Post* answered LaRouche’s concerns in a very curious way. In a profile of shooter Cho Seung-Hui published on the Internet, *Post* reporters had obtained eyewitness information from his high school classmates, detailing that Cho had been a fanatical player of “shooter” video games, especially one called “Counterstrike.”

But then, the reference to Counterstrike was stricken from the printed version of the article, and removed from later Internet postings, and *Washington Post* reporter David Cho, who had interviewed the high school associates of Cho Seung-Hui, was not even listed as an author or contributor of the final article.

What had happened is that the powerful “video-game in-

LaRouche: The Risk of Violence Was Foreseeable

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued the following statement to the LaRouche PAC website on April 18.

The risk, if not the date, of the Virginia Tech shooter's actions was foreseeable, if he was, as reported, both a veteran of training by means of relevant types of video games and with correlated types of personal habits. As early as 1999-2000, this was a clearly foreseen risk, as emphasized, in public reports delivered by Germany's Helga Zepp-LaRouche in Germany, the U.S.A., and Brazil, in 2000.

Relevant forms of aberrant behavior associated with

habitual use of relevant types of video games, are a sign of such a risk. The capabilities exhibited by the shooter show that exactly such a foreseeable risk was present, waiting for the set of circumstances to set off the relevant type of event, as at Columbine earlier.

Unfortunately, there has been a lobby for the types of video games which either promote such aberrant mental states through video shooting games, or sociologically morbid other forms of children's and adolescents' video-based play-habits. These types of well-heeled lobbies have promoted the preconditions for a foreseeable increase of this type of behavior among adolescents and young adults.

Despite Mrs. LaRouche's investigations and reports, there was little effort to deal with what had already been demonstrated, by 2000, to be a serious threat of outbreaks of this sort of terrorist activity. Now, at last, the problem must be treated seriously.

dustry" had struck—running a major campaign to remove any reference to the game Counterstrike or any other video-game references from the major media coverage.

For over a decade, the video-game industry has been able to protect itself—with the help of powerful elected officials, like Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, from interference in the brainwashing of youth.

In the day following the April 16 Virginia Tech shootings, the "industry" was at it again, protecting their operations, including with an all-out media and Internet assault on attorney Jack Thompson, who had exposed the Counterstrike connection to the current case, even as he had exposed earlier connections of the Counterstrike game to deadly school massacres. Thompson was the attorney for victims of the Paducah shootings.

LPAC's Record

Leading the fight again, is Lyndon LaRouche, through his political website, www.larouhepac.com, which immediately established the record. On April 18, LPAC published this item:

"The following was reported April 17, 2007 by *Washington Post* reporters Debbi Wilgoren, Sari Horwitz, and Robert E. Pierre, under the headline,

"'Centreville Student Was Va. Tech Shooter':

"'. . . Several Korean youths who knew Cho Seung-Hui from his high school days said he was a fan of violent video games, particularly Counterstrike, a hugely popular online game, in which players join terrorism or counterterrorism groups and try to shoot each other using. . . .'

"'Just such a phenomenon has been reported by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and by *EIR*, since 1999, in analyses and interviews with experts on mass shootings in recent years.'

"The above report was obtained by searching the washingtonpost.com website for the word "counterstrike." But this reportage was removed by the *Post* in the article as published—the article to which the reader is directed when clicking on the above search result. The final article is headlined, "'Student Wrote About Death and Spoke in Whispers, But No One Imagined What Cho Seung-Hui Would Do,' with the byline, 'by Ian Shapira and Michael E. Ruane, *Washington Post* Staff Writers, Wednesday, April 18, 2007.'

"*Executive Intelligence Review* has established an international reputation for expertise on the subject of the role of these violent video-games in producing cold killers.

"In the case of the April 26, 2002 massacre at the Johann Gutenberg Gymnasium in Erfurt, Germany, 16 people were killed before the shooter, Robert Steinhäuser, committed suicide. *EIR* reported May 10, 2002, the shooter's "mind had been conditioned by his obsession with killer video/computer games, such as "Ninja," 'Doom,' and 'Counterstrike' (produced by the notorious firm, Sierra Entertainment). When he carried out his massacre, he was dressed in black with a black mask, imitating the Ninja warriors found in such killer games. A police raid on Steinhäuser's room found many such killer video games."

These are not "games," they are "killing simulators," and training devices used by law enforcement SWAT teams, and military training. The role of video games in the Cho Seung-Hui shootings cannot be covered up.

The following special report from the archives of *EIR*, the Schiller Institute, and the election campaigns of candidate LaRouche, gives crucial background to policy makers, law enforcement, and families.

As LaRouche says in his April 18 statement (see box), it is "Time To Deal With the Violent Videogame Lobby."

What Is the 'New Violence'?

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

This policy memorandum, directed to LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods (LBW), was written by Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. on April 26, 2000, and originally appeared in EIR, May 5, 2000.

1. The term "New Violence," as employed by LBW, signifies, chiefly, the introduction of new methods, those of Nintendo games and related means, to transform young children and adolescents, as well as law-enforcement personnel, into "Samurai"-style programmed killers. The term "New Violence" will be used in LBW proceedings solely to identify forms of violence which feature this distinctly new element. Old forms of violence will be included in this classification only when the role of Nintendo-style games and related means is a characteristic feature of the problem being considered in the study and report.

E.g., the classification of "New Violence," as distinct from new revivals of old forms of violence, will be included,

only in such cases as the revival of old-style lynching conducted by law-enforcement agents, that only insofar as it is congruent with the pattern typified by the activities of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's special teams of "Nintendo Cops" in New York City.

By "New Violence," we emphasize the Littleton-Columbine model, in which Nintendo-style games and related methods and means was a crucial, distinguishing feature. We include the use of related methods and objectives in the training and deployment of law-enforcement agents, or analogous instances. We must do this to avoid ruining the results of the investigation by fallacy of composition.

2. The standpoint of comparison used to aid in conceptualizing the common characteristics of this "New Violence," is the utopian programs, such as H.G. Wells' *The Open Conspiracy*, Wells-Russell protégé Aldous Huxley's utopian "New Age" models, the 1931 and 1951 models set forth by Bertrand Russell, and *Clockwork Orange*, as points of intellectual reference. What is specifically new, is the adaptation of the mythos of the Samurai warrior, and related "martial arts" mythology, combined with lunatic legacies such as "Dungeons and Dragons" and Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, to the childish mad-killer pornography of cinematic cartoons and Nintendo-style games. The use of this method and its derivatives, for the purpose of programmed conditioning of military, law enforcement teams, and for indoctrinating children in a programmed impulse for terrorist forms of violence, is adequately understood only when such Nintendo-game-

style conditioning is situated within the utopian doctrine of Russell's relevant 1931 and 1951 writings on the required methods of population control to realize his own and H.G. Wells' oligarchical utopian ends.

3. A crucial feature of a clean inquiry, is to recognize the fraud implicit (or actually intended) in the use of any hysterical "gun-law reform" diversionary effort, to cover up for the crucial role of the popular mass-media, and firms such as Hasbro, in mass brainwashing of children to become, even as young children, programmed agents of blind-terrorist modes of mass-murder by means which do not depend in any characteristic fashion on firearms.

4. A most important feature of the inquiry, is to recognize the lessons to be learned from the role of "bread and circuses" in manipulating the population of ancient Rome into the pathological state of mind aimed at by the design of Nintendo-style games and related "New Age" tactics today.



The iconic pose of mass killer Cho Seung-Hui, taken by himself and mailed to NBC television between his two shooting rampages on the Virginia Tech campus. LaRouche emphasized back in May 2000 that no "gun-control reforms" will stop schoolyard massacres, as long as the media and video-games industry are brainwashing children to kill.

LaRouche: Wake Up to 'New Violence' Danger

Here is Lyndon LaRouche's address to the New York City founding meeting of the Commission Against the New Violence, on May 20, 2000, which originally appeared in EIR, June 2, 2000. Subheads have been added.

Let me begin by making a few observations on the question of what we may call the specificity of "New Violence." Now, by "New Violence," we mean, by first approximation, "Nintendo killers" in the military. We mean the replacement of qualified police officers by "Nintendo cops." We mean "Nintendo kids" in the schools, from the ages of 6-16. This is where the core of the New Violence is located. It is not in the bullet, it is not in the axe, it is not in the hammer, it is not in the fist. The violence is not located in the physical act performed upon the victim. The New Violence is located in the peculiarly perverted minds of the perpetrators. The perpetrators are typically military professionals, trained by the official military, or trained by programs designed originally for the military. These are Nintendo-style brainwashing techniques. This means Nintendo cops, police officers who are not police officers any more. They're merely Nintendo-cop killers. They have no sense of a human relationship and their act, on the one hand, and the effect on the victim, on the other hand.

These are children who play Nintendo and Nintendo-style games, such as Pokémon, who are between the ages of 3 to 7-8—are being brainwashed into becoming rage-controlled killers, who will kill as an adult, in an adult manner, but with a childish mind which has no comprehension of the act which they're perpetrating. It's something which they are just compelled to do. Littleton is a paradigm of this problem.

The difference between the New Violence and the old, lies not in the victim, or what the victim suffers; it lies in the mind of the Nintendo-conditioned perpetrator. The controlling motivation lies in a computer program, not in the human behavior of the mind. This kind of motivation is peculiar to a society which is brainwashed into believing in what is called an "Information Society." This causes a lot of controversy, when you get to the point of pointing out where Columbine began, pointing out where—occasions in New York and elsewhere, of Nintendo cops putting 41 bullets into a man who had no reason to be a suspect, before finding out who the man was. . . .

The problem is, these acts have occurred; when you trace them back to the cause, to the Nintendo-style training programs, or the conditioning programs broadcast over the television networks, distributed as games by game companies,



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Lyndon LaRouche, shown here during a webcast on March 7, 2007, issued a policy memo on the "New Violence" in April 2000

game-selling companies—are used to train cops, are used to brainwash the military the way the cops are brainwashed—you then have to say, "What's wrong with society?" This is the result of the Information Society.

It's the 'Information Society' That's Killing

Now, the Information Society is being praised from the President on down, especially the President in charge of Vice, Al Gore, as being a good thing. That is, the "New Economy." Everything will be better in the Information Society. But, it's the Information Society that's killing! And when you attack that as the source of the problem, you're running into some opposition, and people don't want to hear about it, and say, "No! It's the guns! Take the guns away!" It's not the guns. It's what's being done to the mind. I have not seen a six-year-old child go into a store to buy a weapon—whether the weapon is safety locked, or not. That is not where the violence comes from—from six-year-old kids going into gun stores to buy guns. It comes from other sources.

The characteristic of this also means that we're dealing with a society which is becoming dehumanized, dehumanized in a way which was not peculiar to our society in any previous time. This is a process which has developed, essentially, over the past 30-35 years, which has become an acute problem in the past 10-15 years. This is a new condition. But, it means that when people are so locked into the Internet, and the programmed games, Nintendo-style games, and so forth, that their relations to other people are no longer *human* relations, but are *dehumanized, digital relations* controlled by a game. In other words, the motive of the individual ceases to be the effect of their relationship to another human being on a human level, but instead, their motivation becomes their ability to perform according to a program which is built into a digital computing system.

The Insanity of the ‘New Economy’

Now, for example, we had on Friday [May 19], we had one of the biggest collapses of the market, financial market, especially the Internet market, the Nasdaq, that we’ve had to date. We are seeing the inevitable doom of the existing financial system in progress. We are being told, “No, this financial system is not going to collapse, because it’s a wonderful, good New Economy system which is going to carry us to prosperity forever.” But then you go around the country—not only in the state of Mississippi—where you find people saying the economy is booming. Everybody’s employed, they say. Well, how about the tax-revenue base; where is the municipal income for the firemen, for the police, for the schools, for the health care, for the other things that the community, the local community, needs, which the state used to support? It’s not there any more! Why not? Because with working two or three jobs, instead of one, or one-plus jobs, as they used to work, they’re now working two to three. And the real purchasing power they’re getting from two to three jobs per person is less, far less, than the purchasing power they were getting when they were working one to one-and-a-half jobs per person.

This is not only true in Mississippi, it’s true throughout the country. Local communities’ tax-revenue base is collapsing. This is not a prosperous economy. Nor is it a secure one. It’s one which is doomed. But the ideology here is: This is the New Economy, the New Society; the Internet will bring prosperity.

We have in the school system—this is not just a matter of money. The report is that half the pupils reaching the eighth grade are illiterate. Now, this is not just because of cutting the money to school systems. This is because of an increase of the ratio of bad teachers. And the bad teachers, who are producing this illiteracy, are teachers who are responding to the new ideology that corresponds to the New Economy.

You have, for example, in the nation as a whole, you have hysteria. I’m getting reports from various parts of Europe—from high levels from various parts of Europe, and from elsewhere, from Mexico, from parts of South America, from Africa—people of fair importance, hearing we’re from the United States, say, “Don’t go back there again. They’re insane!” They’re talking about the White House, they’re talking about the Congress, they’re talking about influentials in the press. They’re saying the United States is the most insane nation on this planet. “They refuse to discuss anything until after the November elections.”

And what’s the insanity centered on? It’s centered on the Greenspan-Summers phenomenon. You have Larry Summers, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Alan Greenspan—they are building up the biggest hyperinflationary financial bubble in history as a way of trying to prevent, or postpone the greatest financial collapse in history. And there’s no solution to that problem. The system is collapsing now. It probably will not make it to the August conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties. It will not make it till November, in

any case. The system is doomed.

But the whole society is characterized by hysteria. Hysteria is based on confidence in the Information Society, the so-called New Economy. The hysterical belief: “You can not take this away from us. We depend upon it. It’s the only possible future. Don’t try to go back to the old kind of economy. It doesn’t work. *It’s dead. It’s dead. It’s dead.* The New Economy is here, and we’ve got to defend it to the last drop!”

Now the New Economy mentality *is the same kind of thing* as we’re seeing in the Nintendo-killers in the military; we’re seeing it the replacement of qualified policemen by quick-trained Nintendo-killer cops. We’re seeing it in Nintendo-killer children, our own children, in increasing numbers. Children from the ages of 6 to 16. We had a case recently of a victim of Pokémon—which is a killer program; if your child is watching Pokémon as an addict, look out! He may kill you, or he may kill himself.

This child, four years old, tried to fly out a window, and he flew to his death, because he believed he could fly, because he was so conditioned by Pokémon that he, as one of the players of Pokémon, believed he had the ability to fly. He flew: He flew to his death. Other children kill other children under the influence of Pokémon—specifically Pokémon. The same kind of games are being pushed in schools, the same methods; the same ideas are being pushed in the schools. So, our children are being destroyed under our eyes. And often, parents who want to keep peace in the family, will encourage their children to play these games, because the parents either have their own entertainment agenda, and they don’t want to waste that on spending time with their children, or something of that sort.

A Symptom of a Sick Society

So, the New Violence: It’s very specific in the sense it’s a part of the Information Society lunacy which has taken over the top level of the White House, as Larry Summers typifies that, and many others—is also a symptom of a sick society. The New Violence is separate, it’s distinct, it’s specific. But society would not tolerate, would not take the Nintendo games to its heart, unless the society were morally sick, and therefore, we have to address the problem caused by the New Violence as the Nintendo mode of conditioning, of Information Society in general, but we have to recognize it’s a symptom of a moral collapse of society. And we have to recognize that the reason we’re in this mess, is because we’ve been doing something wrong. We’ve been going along to get along, when something was wrong. And that something that was wrong is about to destroy us all.

Killing the New Violence will not solve all our problems. But paying attention to the immediate threat caused by the New Violence, and paying attention to that which caused so many of us to become suckers for tolerating the New Violence, should be treated as a warning sign to us: Wake up! We’re doing wrong. We’d better change it, while we still can.

Violent Video Games Are Mass-Murder Simulators

Lt. Col. David Grossman is the author of Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill: A Call To Action Against TV, Movie & Video Game Violence, which he co-authored with Gloria DeGautano, and On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society. The following is his speech to the founding meeting of the Commission Against the New Violence, on May 20, 2000. It is reprinted from EIR, June 2, 2000.

I'd like to talk to you about violent crime and the causations of violent crime. And what I want you to realize is, we have to think of violence like we would think of heart disease. It really is a soul-disease, if you will. And many things cause heart disease. There's obesity, overweight—does that cause heart disease? Yes. Does a high-cholesterol diet, or stress, or lack of exercise, or genetics—do all those things cause heart disease? Yes, we know they do. If you take all the existing factors, and add tobacco to it, the result is an explosion of heart disease, anywhere in the world.

Well, in the same way, I want you to ask yourself, what causes violent crime, or causes people to kill. Well, poverty, gangs, drugs, availability of guns, child abuse, family breakdown—these are all important factors. But what we *know* is, that if you take the existing factors, and add the media violence—television, movie, and especially now the video-game violence—the result is an *explosion* of violent crime in any nation in which it takes place.

In America, since 1957, per-capita violent crime has gone up approximately six- to sevenfold. Now, the first thing you have to realize is, you have to ignore the murder rate, because medical technology saves more lives every year. What you have to do, is you have to look at the aggravated assault rate, the rate at which Americans are trying to kill one another off. And that has gone up between six- and sevenfold—per capita, now, we're allowing for population growth in all these data.

It's Not 'All About Guns'

A lot of people say, "Well, you know, it's all about guns." I testified before the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House, and keeping guns out of the hands of kids is a terribly important responsibility that everybody from the NRA [National Rifle Association] to the ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] agrees on. When I testified before the Senate and the House, a man by the name of Jack Valenti testified with me. Mr. Valenti [head of the Motion Picture Association of America]

stood up in front of Congress, and said, "This is not happening in other nations. It's all about our guns. It's because the guns are there."

Again, guns are part of the issue, but the two killers here in my hometown, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, at the age of 11 and 13, used an acetylene torch to try to break into a gun case. When that failed, they stole a car, drove across town, and used a crowbar to break into a law-enforcement officer's gun safe. What I want you to realize is, that 15, 20 years ago, nobody would have had a gun safe, and today that's the norm.

The killer in Paducah, Kentucky broke into a locked cabinet in a locked garage in the neighbor's house. I was a consultant in that case, and I tell you, that that boy went to an extraordinary measure to get the guns that he used in that case.

Additionally, the killers in Littleton, Colorado had adults commit felonies to get the guns that they used in that situation.

We are doing a better and better job of keeping the guns away from kids, and we must continue to do so. But the kids are going to extraordinary measures to get those guns.

As I said, Mr. Valenti stood up and said, "It's all about guns. It's not happening in other countries." And Mr. Valenti's kind of a slow learner, because both times I stood up and testified after him, before the Senate and the House, and explained how this *is* happening around the world.

In America, we've had a six- to sevenfold increase in per-capita violent crime since 1957. In Canada—in Canada, you know, you've got a great nation. You've got all those gun laws, you've got that semi-socialistic, paternalistic government, you've got almost zero racial problems, and you've got the cold weather that drives all the riffraff down to the United States, you see. So, in Canada, since 1964, per-capita violent crime has gone up fivefold. Attempted murders have gone up sevenfold.

Across Europe and around the world we see the same phenomena. In the last 15 years that we've got Interpol data, per-capita violent crime went up fivefold in Norway and Greece, it went up fourfold in Australia and New Zealand. Per-capita violent crime in those same 15 years tripled—tripled—in Sweden, and approximately doubled in seven other European nations. Meanwhile, in that same time frame, we saw murder double in India.

Violence and Television

Now, here's an interesting phenomenon—and we're going to come back to it over and over again. Television was placed in every village in India in the late 1960s and the early '70s. Fifteen years later, the murder rate doubled in India. Anywhere we saw television appear, around the world, Western television—you see, in India, their favorite show was [a police thriller] "Starsky and Hutch," and other such things. Anywhere that American violent media appear, 15 years later, the murder rate has at least doubled.

Now, when we start thinking of the impact of the violent video games, and the toxic material that's coming over the



The “new violence” has been sparked by the so-called Information Society, with a proliferation of violent video games that teach children how to kill. Shown here: an assortment of advertisers in Computer Gaming World.

Internet, when we think about that 15-year delay, you need to ask yourself very, very carefully, what the world is going to look like 15 years from now.

Well, as we said, we saw India, with the doubling of the murder rate in that vast nation, as the direct result of television. We saw Brazil and Mexico had an explosion of violent crime in the last 10 or 15 years. And Japan. Japan is a nation with a homogeneous society, an intact family structure, universal employment, draconian gun laws, an island nation. And in 1997 alone, we saw a 30% increase in juvenile violence in Japan. So, again, what we’re looking at is a worldwide phenomenon, in which any nation which feeds death and horror

and destruction to their children, pays a tragic price.

Now, a lot of people think that if we just outlaw guns, it’ll go away. And that’s like saying, if we outlaw drugs, the drug problem will go away. If we continue to glamorize drugs—and every night the children are shown all of their action heroes shooting up drugs, and smoking marijuana—why, we know that it would be virtually impossible to prevent the demand for drugs, which will be met.

In the same way, around the world, we’re finding that it’s virtually impossible in a free society, to control the flow of guns, if there’s this *demand* for guns. I had a BBC crew in my home, here in Arkansas, just a couple of months ago, telling

me about the explosion of guns that's coming into England. You can't control all the drugs, and you can't control all the guns, and the guns are worth more, pound for pound, than heroin is. And people are buying the guns, and cases of automatic weapons are coming into England, and the city of Manchester is now referred to as Gun-chester.

You see, the point is, that we cannot permit the mass media to continue to glamorize violence and death and horror, and then think that nobody's going to want the guns, and for some reason, they're all going to go away if we pass a magic law.

What the Experts Have Said

Now, the very people that we count on to inform us about the data, are the media, the television industry. And they are systematically invested in misrepresenting this situation. The AMA [American Medical Association], the APA [American Psychological Association], the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Surgeon General, the Attorney General, the United Nations or the major UNESCO study—every major scholarly and medical body in the world that's ever addressed the topic, has made *definitive* statements about the link between media violence, and violence in our society.

I was on "Meet the Press" with our Surgeon General two weeks after the Littleton shootings. They asked the Surgeon General, "Can you do a Surgeon General's report on the link between media violence and violence in our society?" They said, "You know, what the Colonel's talking about makes sense; maybe we are teaching our kids to kill. Can you do a Surgeon General's report?"

The Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, got this kind of disgusted look on his face, and he says, "Sure, I can do *another* Surgeon General's report. But why don't we begin by reading the 1972 Surgeon General's report that has already established that?"

Now, how many of you in the audience knew that the Surgeon General says that there's a link between tobacco and cancer? Raise your hands. Of course you do. It's on every pack of tobacco you see. Now, how many of you knew that the Surgeon General said that there's a definitive link between television violence and violence in our society? Now, why don't we know that? Why don't we know what the Surgeon General has to say about a product that we inflict upon our children? Why don't we know about the longitudinal study of 875 kids, across 21 years, that demonstrated the fact that the high-level viewers of television were four to five times more likely to be violent criminals? Why don't we know that? Why is the Surgeon General so disgusted at having to repeat studies that were done over a quarter of a century ago?

Well, the point is this: If you ask the television industry about the link between their product, and the harmful effects, they'll do the same thing as the tobacco industry. Now, ask yourself: Up until just very recently, if you asked the tobacco

industry about the link between tobacco and cancer, what would they do? They would lie. You know how you could tell the tobacco industry was lying? Their lips were moving.

In the same way, if you ask the television industry about the link between their product and violence in our society, they will do the exact same as the tobacco industry—they will lie. They will bring out their stooge researchers, their tame scientists on a leash, that come out and claim that you can't prove it. Now, I presented to the AMA, as a preliminary presenter, in their annual national leadership symposium earlier this year, and before the APA. In both of those cases, when we stood up and talked about the health impact of media violence, they did not invite the tobacco industry, or the television industry, to come in and tell "their side of the story." The AMA and the APA are convinced that there is no doubt about it: They are only frantically searching for a way to get through the incredible stonewall, by which the individuals who control the public airwaves, are preventing us from getting out vital information about the health of ourselves and our children.

Violent Video Games

Now, the most important point that I want to make today, revolves around the video games, the violent video games. What I want you to realize is, that these video games have reached a new level. All of the data, every lick and stick of the data, on movie and television violence causing violence in our society, applies directly to the video games, with bells on.

Now, what will happen is, you'll see the video-game industry say, "Well, those data don't apply to us. This is a new product." That's like saying the data on cigarettes don't apply to cigars. We know the violent visual imagery is having the exact same impact on the kids. The problem is, that this new medium, by which the kids are learning violence—and violence is a learned skill, you learn it through visual observation—but, even better than watching a training film, is partaking in a simulator.

Now, these video games are simulators. There are flight simulators, that teach you how to fly. And there are murder simulators, whose only redeeming social value is that they teach you how to commit the act of murder. If these things were rape simulators, we would not tolerate letting our children play them. And yet, we sit and watch our children play endless hours, practicing blowing people's heads off.

Now, people are going to say, "That's just kids playing games. We played caps when we were kids." You all remember playing caps? We had toy guns. And I said, "Bang, bang, I got you, Billy." And Billy said, "No, you didn't." So, I smacked him with my cap gun. And he cried, and he went to his mama, and I got in *big* trouble. And you know what I learned? I learned that Billy is real. And when I hurt Billy, bad things are going to happen to me.

Now, in the violent video games, I blow Billy's stinkin' head off in explosions of blood, countless thousands of times. And do I get trouble? No. I get points.



CounterStrike

The home page of the CounterStrike video game, 2007. Colonel Grossman has been writing on the role of video violence in programming children to kill since the 1990s. It's one thing when policemen or soldiers are trained by these shoot-to-kill technologies, he says, but it's quite another when they are used to turn children into zombies.

Do you understand: The purpose of play, is to learn *not* to hurt members of your society, and members of your own species. In a basketball game, or a football game, when one of the players is hurt, according to the rules, the play stops. That what makes professional wrestling so dysfunctional.

Now, if you're an adult, and you enjoy media violence, that's fine. I'm an adult. I like to drink a beer, I like to shoot a gun, I like to smoke a cigar, I like sex—I like all those things. If you give any of those things to my grand-babies, you're a criminal. You understand? The things that we enjoy, as adults, it's okay. But if you take the things as adults, that you enjoy—guns, pornography, tobacco, alcohol, sex, cars—and you give them to kids, you're a criminal!

Now, if you want to play violent video games, and you want to let your kid do it; if you want to have a drink of beer and let your kid have a drink; if you want to shoot a gun and let your kid shoot a gun, that's your business. But, if I want to make money selling guns, or beer, or pornography, or tobacco, or violent video games to your kids, then that just became your business.

Military-Quality Training Devices

Now these violent video games are identical, as Mr. LaRouche has said, to military-quality training devices. They make killing a conditional response. I would refer you to my website, at which I have three encyclopedia entries that I've written, and my entry in the *Oxford Companion to American Military History*. I would also refer you to my book *On Killing*, and my new book, *Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill*. On

Killing is being used as a textbook in West Point, and in universities across the world. My website is Killology.com, and on that website there are all these extensive mainstream, peer-reviewed scholarly articles of mine, demonstrating how the military has learned to turn off the safety catch in human beings.

You see, in World War II, we had a problem. And the problem was, that the vast majority of our soldiers would not fire. We had magnificent soldiers. We had magnificent weapons. The problem was, that we had crummy training. And in the training, we taught our soldiers to fire at bull's-eye targets.

Now, what is the fundamental flaw in teaching your soldiers to fire at bull's-eyes. Well, as most of you figured out, we have no known instances of any bull's-eyes ever attacking any of our soldiers. If you want a soldier to be capable of killing a human being, he must rehearse on a human being. Anybody that's been in the military in the last 40 years, or law-enforcement training in the last 30 years, what you learn to shoot at, was *not* a bull's-eye target, but a man-shaped silhouette that pops up in your field of view.

You see, if I wanted you to fly a plane, I'd have to put you in a flight simulator. A driving simulator isn't close enough. Under stress, in the plane, your experience in the driving simulator isn't close enough, and it won't transfer to the reality. I've got to put you in the most realistic flight simulator I can.

And in the same way, if I want you to pull the trigger and kill a human being under stress, I have to put you in a killing simulator. In the military, in the law-enforcement community, the conditioned stimulus is a man-shaped silhouette that pops up in your field of view. Conditioned response—you have a split second to engage the target, you hit the target, the target drops. Stimulus-response. Stimulus-response. Stimulus-response. A few hundred repetitions of *that*, and then when an enemy soldier pops up in front of our guys in Vietnam, boom—we shot, and we shot to kill. And we raised the firing rate approximately fivefold; five times more individual soldiers, left to their own devices, in Vietnam, were willing to fire than in World War II, because of the training.

Now, a bull's-eye is completely different from a human being. Firing at bull's-eyes doesn't transfer to that skill. There's a vast chasm between being a healthy human being, and killing another being—and most people cannot cross that chasm. And firing at a bull's-eye doesn't help. But, firing at a man-shaped silhouette, firing at a simulated human being, *that* is close enough to the reality that I can use it as an intermediate step, that it can prepare me, it can rehearse me, mentally, for the act of killing.

And then, in the violent video games, when I actually hold

the plastic gun in my hand, and I pull the trigger, and I feel the recoil, and when I hit the target, the target drops, not only do I learn the mental skill to kill, but I also develop the physical ability to kill—the pointing skills, the trigger control, that allowed the young boy in Paducah, Kentucky to fire eight shots, and get eight hits on eight different kids—a supernatural accuracy.

These violent video games are murder simulators. They're not just murder simulators—they are *mass*-murder simulators, because the child drills, and drills, and drills, and drills, to kill every living creature in front of him, until he runs out of targets, or he runs out of bullets.

The Effect of Drill

Now, in Paducah, Kentucky, in Pearl, Mississippi, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, we believe the boys set out to kill just one person, usually a girlfriend, and then they kept on firing, and they gunned down every living creature in front of them until they ran out of targets, or were interrupted. Afterwards, the cops asked the kids: "Look, you killed the person you were mad at; why did you kill these other people? Some of them were your friends." And the kids don't know. But *we* know. Whatever is drilled in, is coming out the other end.

Let me give you an example: Back in the old days, we trained our cops to fire revolvers out on a range. Now, because we didn't want to have to clean up that range afterwards, we'd have them fire six shots, and then stop—and we'd go "king's ex-time-out" for a minute. We'd empty the expended brass from the revolver into our hands, and then we'd put that empty brass in our pocket, we'd reload, and we'd keep going. Now, you'd never, in the middle of a real life-and-death gun fight, take "king's ex-time-out"—let me save my brass, put it in my pocket, keep going.

Guess what we find real cops are doing? In a real life-and-death protracted gunfight, they would end the gunfight with a pocket full of empty brass, and no idea how it got there. The point is, that two times a year, the cops would fire 60 shots and save their brass; four months later, under extraordinary stress, that's exactly what they're doing.

Now, what are the kids being drilled to do? Not to save their brass. They're being drilled to kill every living creature in front of them, until they run out of targets, or run out of ammunition, or are interrupted. *That's* what's happening to our kids. And the result is, the kids have got the skill and the will, to kill every living creature in front of them, until they run out of targets, or run out of bullets.

A Moral Responsibility

I want to give you a model, and then a story to wrap it up. The model, is seat belts.

Now, here's what you're going to hear, guys. Katie Couric said this to me when I was on the "Today" show. She said, "Listen, I watched all that violent stuff. I played these games, and it didn't bother me." She said, "Well, why

should I worry about my kids?"

I said, "Katie, you know, when I was a kid, I never buckled my seat belt, and it never bothered me, so why should I buckle my kids up?" She says, "Oh!" Understand, when we were young, we didn't buckle our seat belts. But today, we buckle our babies and our grand-babies up religiously. How did we learn to do that?

Well, we knew we did something dumb, we knew we did something wrong, and we were educated, and we did the right thing. A lot of you out there, you did the wrong thing, like I did. I blew it with my boys. I've got three boys who are grown now; I blew it with them. But, I've decided that I'm going to do a better job with the grand-kids. And my model is my mom.

When I had my first grand-baby, and he would sit beside me in the seat, my mom, who was sitting in the back seat, reached down and smacked me on the head, and said, "Buckle that baby up!" I said, "But Mom, you never buckled us up when we were kids!" And she smacked me again, and said, "Don't be stupid! Buckle that baby up!"

That's exactly what we've gotta do. We've got to wake up. Listen to what the AMA, the APA, the Surgeon General, the National Institute of Mental Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics, have to say, and protect our babies, and protect our society, and begin to confront an industry that is systematically selling a toxic, addictive substance to children.

I was on "Politically Incorrect" with Bill Maher and three other Hollywood types. There was me, and four of these wacko types—it was a pretty fair balance. And Bill Maher, the people there, these Hollywood types, this is their standard line: They said, "Look, we don't like all this violence. We don't let our kids watch it. But it's what America buys, so we sell it. We're gypped by the marketplace. America buys it, so we sell it."

I said, "Guys, that's drug-dealer logic. That's pimp logic." I said, "Even drug dealers and pimps don't try to sell to little kids." I said that, "How does it feel to be functioning at a moral level beneath the NRA, beneath the tobacco industry? The NRA and the tobacco industry—they accept regulation on their product when it comes to kids. How does it feel to be the only industry in America with a product that you know is harmful to children, that you continue to insist on selling and refuse to accept any regulation? Do you like looking at yourself in the mirror in the morning, and you see a pimp, a drug dealer?" Now, I don't think they'll let me back on the show.

But the point is, that this is a group of individuals who are functioning at the lowest possible moral level. And we've got to understand what's happening, and we can't let them get away with it.

And I'll tell you another obfuscation that they're going to try to make. I was on a panel moderated by Larry King. And Larry turned to me, and said, "Well, you know, Colonel, the Bible has lots of violence in it, too. Should we ban the Bible, when it comes to kids?" I said, "Larry, the difference is that

the AMA has not determined that the Bible is responsible for at least half of all the murders in America.” I said, “Larry, we’re not talking about the written word. The written word can’t be processed until you’re eight years old. It goes in the eye, has to be decoded and processed in the logical center, and trickles down into the emotional center. The spoken word can’t be processed until around age four. It goes in the ear, is decoded and processed in the logical center, and it trickles down into the emotional center.”

But violent visual images, can be processed at the age of *18 months!* At the age of 18 months, the baby comprehends completely what’s on the television screen. The only thing is, that it isn’t until they’re six, or seven, or eight that they can understand that it’s not real.

Now, at the age of 18 months, it goes straight into the eye, and straight into the emotional center. It’s a powerful and profound impact.

These are the things you’ll hear people say: “Well, it never bothered my kids. You know, gosh, should we be banning the Bible, too?” You’re going to hear people say, “Well, if you don’t like it, just turn it off. Don’t worry about what me and my kids are doing. You just turn it off.”

Everyone Must Do Their Part

And to people who say that, I tell a story that came out of the shootings here in Jonesboro, in my hometown.

I was out at the school as the lead trainer of mental health professionals, on the night of what was the largest schoolyard massacre in American history—at that time. It’s since been beat by the Littleton killings. And we were out there working in that school.

Now, the counselors who were working in the hospital that day, one of those counselors came out, and she had to talk to us, she had to tell us what had happened out in that hospital that day. Now, to those people, whose solution to this problem, “If you don’t like it, just turn it off,” I tell them this story that that counselor brought to us at the school that night:

She said, they were out working in that hospital, in that emergency room, that small, small emergency room, with over a dozen families in sobbing masses. Moms and dads, and aunts and uncles, and brothers and sisters, trying to come to terms with an 11- and 13-year-boy that had just butchered their little girls.

In the middle of all of that, periodically, the doctor comes out and pulls aside two parents, and says, “I’m so very sorry, but your little girl didn’t make it. We did the best we could.”

Now, this counselor said it had been going on for quite a while, and all of a sudden, there’s this lady that comes in. She’s all alone, she’s got no friends, she’s got no family, she’s got no husband, nobody. She comes walking into that emergency room, and she sits down, and she’s just staring off into the distance.

Finally, after she’d been there quite a while, one of the counselors comes up to her, and she drops down on one knee,

and she takes this lady’s hand, and she says, “Can I help you?” She said, “The lady looks me in the eye, and says, ‘I’m the mother of one of the little girls that was killed today, and I just want to know, how do I get my little girl back? What do I need to do to get the body back?’ ”

And they explained to her, that all of the ones that had been killed today, had been sent to the state capital, 100 miles away, for autopsies. And when they were finished with the body, they’d call her, and she could tell them what funeral home to have the body shipped to.

These violent video games are murder simulators. They’re not just murder simulators—they are mass-murder simulators, because the child drills, and drills, and drills, and drills, to kill every living creature in front of him, until he runs out of targets, or he runs out of bullets.

And you see, it hadn’t sunk in yet. And she says, “Funeral home. Funeral home. We can’t afford a funeral. We can’t even afford a funeral.”

You see, that little girl was all she had in all the world. There was no husband, there were no friends, there was no family. There was just her and that little girl, and she was going to come to that hospital, and wrap her little girl’s body in a blanket and take her home.

And for those whose solution to this problem is, “If you don’t like it, just turn it off,” my answer is, “Come to Jonesboro with your sad solution, my friend. Come to Jonesboro and tell that mother how she could have kept her little girl safe. Because every single one of the victims of every single one of the school shootings, their parents could have protected them for a lifetime, and it wouldn’t have been enough, if the parents of one of the neighbor boys hadn’t done their job.”

What we have in front of us is a joint corporate, moral responsibility, to reel in an industry that is systematically selling death and horror and destruction to our children. And around the world, as each new level of violence is sold to the kids, and at young ages, they suck this stuff up—15 years later we see the impact. God only knows what the impact is going to be of what’s being given to our kids now, but Paducah, and Pearl, and Littleton, and Jonesboro, and Springfield, are an indication of what’s in front of us.

And it’s not going to stop, until we stop teaching our kids to kill. Thank you and God bless you.

After the Erfurt Massacre: Time To Ban Violent Videos

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche is chairman of the Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität (Civil Rights Solidarity Movement). She issued this statement on April 29, 2002, following her April 28 call for Germany to return to Classical education. (This article first appeared in English in EIR, May 17, 2002.)

In the wake of the gruesome massacre committed by 19-year-old Robert Steinhäuser, responsible citizens can only have one reaction: Germany must call upon the United Nations to establish a protocol for a worldwide ban on the production and sale of films, computer games, and videos glorifying violence. This is necessary, because this “New Violence,” as manifested in the massacre in Erfurt, is by no means a “sociological accident” or a “freak incident.” Rather, it is a worldwide phenomenon, one which represents as grave a threat to human civilization, as does the outbreak of a new life-threatening epidemic disease.

It is certainly true that here in Germany, public discussion of the background of this incident has been conducted in a more honest and competent manner than occurred, for example, in the United States, following the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton. A good number of psychologists and educators here have pointed out the direct connection to violence-glorifying videos and computer games, and many of them have been rightly calling for the outlawing of such products. Nevertheless, that alone is not enough, because only once we have truly understood the nature of this “New Violence,” will we be able to protect our children effectively against it.

Making Soldiers Killing Machines

For example, take the case of those who argue that these sorts of horror film and killer computer games only lead to the commission of violent acts in cases where the children and youths involved are already at risk, whereas the majority of “normal” young people can consume these media products without undue harm. Such people are, in the best of cases, simply deceiving themselves. Because in fact—and we will have more to report on this later on—these computer games were originally developed in the United States for use by the military, for the purpose of breaking down the inhibitions which new recruits would experience when ordered to kill



EIRNS

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, urging her proposed strategy to ban killer video and computer games internationally, at a campaign event of the BüSo (Civil Rights Solidarity Movement) in Düsseldorf.

enemy troops. Namely, it had been recognized that during World War II and the Korean War, only about 15% of all soldiers had been willing to shoot at the enemy with the intent to kill. But by using computer games involving repeated shooting at virtual enemy troops, the act of killing could be turned into a routine, mechanical activity, unhindered by any burdensome moral scruples.

So, if this de-sensitization works with military and police personnel (and we should recall here the infamous Diallo case in New York, when police fired 41 bullets into an unarmed African man), why wouldn't these games have the same effect on children and teenagers, who, after all, are even more impressionable than are adults? The ugly reality is, that even if the sale of such satanic computer games were banned tomorrow, this would not repair the damage that has already been done. We must therefore ask ourselves: What has brought a considerable part of our society to the point of tolerating ever more perverse forms of violence in such “action movies” as “Terminator” (Robert Steinhäuser's favorite movie), and in

such games as “Doom,” “Quake,” and so forth? What is wrong with the axioms in the minds of many adults in our society, who notice only now (if they notice anything at all) that these products are bestial, and that they aim at producing a bestial outcome?

The idea of molding soldiers into blind obeyers of orders and eager killing machines, comes out of the utopian military doctrine of such people as Samuel Huntington, as he set this forth in his book, *The Soldier and the State*. It runs directly contrary to the tradition of Lazare Carnot and Scharnhorst, who developed the concept of the citizen-soldier, whereby the officer in particular should be of exemplary character, with an especially refined sense of the General Welfare, one who should be able to think for himself, and be able to creatively carry out the assigned objective. Huntington, on the other hand, promotes the idea of the soldier who never permits himself to think, who never involves himself in political affairs, and who is thus part of a military hermetically sealed off from the “chaos” of civilian life. Huntington’s concept is, in fact, nothing new: It is merely the old form of the Roman imperial legions, whose role was to secure the Empire’s borders; Huntington also explicitly mentions, in this regard, the international Waffen SS.

Already back in 1972, the U.S. Surgeon General warned that there could be no doubt about the connection between violence in the media, and violent acts committed by children and young people. Shortly thereafter, the American Medical Association warned that violence in the media was the greatest health-care emergency in the U.S.A. And that was 30 years ago! Has anyone in the meantime been restricting Hollywood and the producers of these computer games? Thanks to this failure, the only way one can enter an American school building today, is by walking through a metal detector, not to mention the armed policemen patrolling the hallways. In American cities such as Washington, murders are committed every day, with most of the victims being young people killed by “random shootings”—i.e., shootings in which the killer and the victim do not even know each other.

To Stop ‘The New Violence’

If one takes stock of the past three decades’ history in the United States, it becomes quite evident that the responsibility for this phenomenon of youth violence must be placed at the feet of those military and elected officials who, despite overwhelming evidence presented by medical and psychological experts, *and* despite the empirical experience of a widespread de-sensitization among youths, did nothing to halt this process of degeneration. Indeed, one cannot help but get the impression that this process was intentionally *encouraged*. After all, how could global military operations be carried out, if it weren’t for a steady supply of emotionally immature, trigger-happy young recruits?

With the massacre in Erfurt, American conditions have now come to Germany. Only six days afterward, “unpolitical”

youths went rioting in Berlin, including 13-year-old girls who were hurling stones at policemen. And if Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit thinks he can get away with claiming that with “only” 180 police injured, this was a “successful strategy,” then perhaps he should go out there himself the next time! There is simply no doubt that the phenomenon of the “New Violence”—i.e., of a violence whose cause does not lie exclusively in the criminal energies of individual perpetrators, but rather in the cultivation of socially tolerated media violence—is a massive problem here in Germany, too.

This plague of violence-glorifying horror films and com-

Germany should propose that the United Nations establish an international protocol for the banning of these violence-glorifying videos.

puter games has now spread around the globe. The fact is likewise inescapable, that this has led to a dangerous state of spiritual desolation and demoralization among a large percentage of those who consume these media products. And whoever attempts to deny that fact, is acting like the drug addict who claims that his drug consumption has no negative effect on his capacity to think: How could he, after all, have any memory of the brain cells which he’s already lost?

A ban on violent videos, and cooperation with responsible representatives of the media, are correct and necessary measures. But these alone will not be sufficient to block access via the Internet or across national borders, nor will it succeed in reversing the effect of those products which are already circulating among our young people, and generally in the population. Once it is understood that this is not a one-time freak incident—albeit the most horrible incident to date—but that, on the contrary, this New Violence is just as much a threat to human civilization, as a global outbreak of cannibalism—only then does it become clear that we must react in a far more fundamental way.

Therefore, Germany should propose that the United Nations establish an international protocol for the banning of these violence-glorifying videos.

And, secondly, we will only be able to heal the damage that has already been done in our country, by returning immediately to an educational policy based on the Christian-humanist image of man, in the tradition of Wilhelm von Humboldt. That is the only way we will be able to give our children and young people the spiritual strength to reject these bestial conceptions on their own.

Media, Arms Dealers & Killer Video Games

by Alexander Hartmann

This article first appeared in EIR, May 17, 2002.

For years, it has been known that violent video games are among the driving forces behind the “New Violence” in our societies and schools. This was demonstrated again in Erfurt, Germany, on April 26, [2002], when a drop-out pupil who was obsessed with “point-and-shoot” video games, shot and killed 16 people and himself at his former school. The terrible events of that day have triggered huge demonstrations and a national debate in Germany, over the media products of the “New Violence.”

Prompted by the Erfurt events, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, a candidate for the German Bundestag (lower house of parliament), renewed her call, first made in February 2000, for an international protocol banning violent video and computer games (published in this section).

A closer look at the business networks involved in the production and marketing of such games indicates why, despite a mass of evidence, no such action has been taken. Behind the slime-mold of video game-producing studios being created, dissolved, merged, renamed or taken over, there are several big media and even armament corporations that, apparently, no one in the Western governments dares to touch.

‘Military-Industrial Complex’

The largest European producer of such games, presently, is the French Infogrames SA. According to its website, Infogrames was co-founded in 1983 by Bruno Bonnell, who earlier had been involved in developing “the Thomson T07, one of the first computers designed for domestic use.” Thomson is France’s leading defense electronics producer. Sitting on the board of Infogrames, is Thierry Dassault, representing the Dassault Group’s multimedia division. Dassault also is one of the largest defense contractors in France.

In January 2000, Infogrames bought up U.S. toy producer Hasbro’s on-line and off-line interactive game divisions. Since then, Infogrames sucked up Eden Studios and Shiny Entertainment, and is now marketing games like Stuntman, MXRider, Spy Hunter, Terminator, Mission: Impossible, Unreal, and Backyard Sports. Also bought from Hasbro by Infogrames were the rights to the Atari games, which were prominent in the early days of video games, in the 1980s. Hasbro has a link to the American defense establishment of

its own: Before entering the current U.S. administration, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz served on Hasbro’s board.

The big media conglomerates share part of the business with the biggest military producers. The first-person-shooter video game Counterstrike—which apparently was instrumental in programming the young Erfurt killer Robert Steinhäuser—is a product of Sierra Entertainment, a subdivision (studio) of the world’s second largest communications group, Vivendi Universal. Other such studios owned by Vivendi Universal include Blizzard Entertainment and Universal Interactive, all of which produce a large variety of interactive, online, PC and console-based computer games, often of the most violent character.

Many of the games are based on Hollywood film scripts, like Terminator or Mission: Impossible, and rely on “intellectual property rights” sold or leased by the original film producers, who share part of the royalties income and have a lot of political clout. It is no secret that Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) could bury his Presidential ambitions without Hollywood’s money, and he is not the only one dependent on money and other support from Hollywood.

Vivendi Universal was formed in 2000, through the merger of Vivendi, a French multimedia group, and Edgar Bronfman’s Seagram Co. Ltd. Seagram’s had, in 1995, bought MCA, including MCA’s Universal movies division, with its 14.7% share of the U.S. box-office market. Under the leadership of his son, Edgar Bronfman, Jr., Universal Music bought up PolyGram, and now owns the copyrights works by to Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley, the Jackson Five, U2, Elton John, Marilyn Manson, and, among others, 50% of the “Gangsta Rap” label Interscope. Among Vivendi’s own assets brought into the merger, was the French pay-TV channel Canalplus.

As of now, both Edgar Bronfmans, Senior and Junior, and a third person representing Bronfman’s interests, are listed as “non-executive board members” of Vivendi Universal—obviously, the Bronfmans still own a substantial share of Vivendi Universal.

Vivendi’s boss Jean-Claude Messier himself was, from 1986-88, responsible for the French government’s privatization program. Then, he joined the influential U.S.-French investment bank Lazard Frères, before he took over the Lyon-based water utility Générale des Eaux, which he transformed into the Vivendi media group.

Too Big To Take On?

In the cartelized “entertainment industry,” the relation to the financier powers—and government sponsorship—makes or breaks a company. In this light, Messier’s creation of the Vivendi cartel (and its entry into such product lines as killer video games) must be seen as a sponsored initiative of the Lazard bank. Felix Rohatyn, Messier’s mentor at Lazard, went on to become U.S. Ambassador to France.

A parallel project is Sumner Redstone's Viacom, assembled with the forceful backing of the same Lazard bank. Viacom owns CBS and Paramount Studios. A group of Redstone's executives was hired in 1999, directly by the U.S. military, to set up the Insititute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California. There, Pentagon-financed video-game programmers now design *both* killer games for kids, and training simulators for soldiers to fight heretofore "unthinkable" imperial wars.

The world's biggest producer of video games is Electronic Arts, which only recently procured the exclusive rights to offer games through America Online. Seagram owned a 15% share of Time Warner, before the latter's merger with AOL. Among AOL/Time Warner's affiliates are *Time* magazine and Warner Brothers. Through joint ventures, AOL/Time Warner is connected to Germany's media giant Bertelsmann, which controls the German RTL and RTL 2 and RTL plus TV stations, known for their often pornographic contents. One of the biggest players in the market of TV and movie rights is the—recently bankrupted—German Kirch Group, which controls Germany's ProSieben, Sat 1, Kabel 1, N24, and Premiere TV stations.

Another powerful sector profiting from the killer games are the producers of both the hardware and the software needed to run them, like Nintendo, Sony, and Microsoft. Obviously, for most of the current political elite, this combination of economic and political clout is simply too much to take on.

Yet the biggest entities in this criminal business, such as Vivendi and Viacom, are drowning in unpayable debt and crashing stock values. A resolute public attack against them would collapse this whole sordid side of the "New Economy" bubble.

A Cultural Crisis

Under the shock of the Erfurt mass murder, Germany is going through a profound process of rethinking the direction in which the nation has drifted over the past decades—in culture, education, and economic policy. That process of national soul-searching will have a major impact on the national elections scheduled for later this year. This became visible on May 3, when over 100,000 Germans, mostly from the eastern region near the scene of the school carnage, gathered in Erfurt for a memorial service.



State Government of Thuringia

More than 100,000 Germans gathered in the city square of Erfurt days after the killings; with the national shock, came growing national demands for banning violent videos and computer games, including their importation.

This massive showing of the population is putting pressure on the political class, to act against the culture of violence. Both President Johannes Rau and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder addressed the Erfurt gathering, and delivered frank assessments of the deep cultural crisis that the killing incident had spotlighted. Earlier in the week, the Federal Ministry for the Interior issued a preliminary report on the incident. It warned that as many as 170,000 German youth are so deeply involved in the same culture of video-game violence and pornography, that any one of them could repeat the Erfurt incident.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's proposal to ban the killer video and computer games internationally now hits the center of the debate. One Chancellor candidate, Christian Democrat Edmund Stoiber, has now made a more limited call to ban the killer products. Christian Pfeiffer, Minister of Justice of the state of Lower Saxony, said in radio interviews, that a ban of killer games must hit the producers in the first place. Sanctions against the producers of such games, not just sanctions against the sellers and distributors, must be considered, Pfeiffer said; otherwise a ban will never be effective. A ban should also affect adult players, otherwise children will have access to killer games through older brothers and sisters, or their parents and friends of the family.

In a related initiative, Werner Glogauer, one of Germany's leading media experts, said that producers should be held responsible for atrocities resulting from "playing" with their killer games; and that if that case can be proven, they should have to pay.



Violent Video Games Reward Children for Killing People

Colonel Grossman is a former U.S. Army Ranger, and former professor at West Point and the University of Arkansas. He has written two books demonstrating how media and video-game violence is making killers out of some children, who become indifferent to the fact that their “target” is a human being. Colonel Grossman helps to train military, police, and emergency rescue units throughout the United States.

*His books are *On Killing; The Psychological Costs of Learning to Kill in War and Society* and *Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill*. The latter is required reading at West Point and the Air Force Academy, and recommended reading for the FBI Academy and the Marine Corps Commandant’s reading list. It is required in Peace Study programs in Quaker and Mennonite colleges, and at the University of California at Berkeley.*

EIR reviewed his first book on March 10, 2000, and interviewed him in the March 17, 2000 issue. He gave the following interview to Helga Zepp-LaRouche on May 4, 2002.

This interview first appeared in EIR, May 24, 2002.

EIR: I read your first book. Please tell us more about that and the most recent one.

Grossman: *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill* is going to be released in German in September. It’s already been translated, and an article from *Der Spiegel* will be added to it, and my understanding is that a chapter and introduction from *Der Spiegel*, and a chapter from the individual involved with the last teen mass murder there in Germany, the actor—all of that will be in there,

And I say all that as a prelude to telling you, that *On Killing* will be released fairly soon. It’s already been licensed for release in German language. . . . If you have already read *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill* you know where I’m coming from.

I am personally on the road almost 300 days a year. I train the FBI; I train the Special Forces; I train the Marine Corps; I train law enforcement, nationwide and worldwide. My job is to examine the act of killing. How do we take a healthy 18-year-old boy, a soldier, a 22-year-old police officer, and make them capable of pulling the trigger? The mechanism we use is, we make killing a conditioned reflex, stimulus/response, stimulus/response. At the moment of truth, the proper stimu-

lus pops up in front of them, and they kill without conscious thought.

If you truly dwell on the magnitude of what you are doing when you kill another human being; if you truly dwell on the reality of another living, vital person, who is loved, and thinks and feels; that’s a very difficult thing to do. You’ve got to separate yourself from the humanity of the person you are killing—turn them into just a target. And the best mechanism we ever found for doing that, was this killing simulator, in which, instead of using bull’s-eye targets, as we did in World War II, we transitioned to a man-made silhouette, and we made killing a conditioned reflex.

The same phenomena that the military and law enforcement uses to enable killing—which is done with the safeguard of discipline—is being done indiscriminately to our children with violent video games. There is a major study that is going to be released in Indianapolis this year. An outfit called the Center for Successful Parenting, has paid several hundred thousand dollars—that’s a lot of money, in this field—in research, hooking MRIs to children playing video games; magnetic resonance imaging, tracing the brain activity of children playing video games.

Now basically, the children who’ve never played the violent video game before, when they have to kill somebody, they’re thinking about it. It’s a conscious, thinking effort. But, the children who’ve played the games a lot, and are very good at the games—there is no conscious thought; there is nothing but brain stem activity; it completely bypasses their conscious brain. The video game turns killing into a conditioned reflex.

Now, you need three things to kill: You need the weapon, the skill, and the will to kill. The video games provide two out of three. They give the skill and the will to kill. The weapons have been there for a long, long time. During World War I, and prior to World War I, and throughout the years after World War I, and throughout World War II, high-capacity 9 mm pistols were everywhere in Germany. We had literally hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of young soldiers, walking through Germany with military quality weapons, and high-capacity 9 mm pistols. The first real, double-stacked, high-capacity 9 mm pistol was probably the German Mauser, to this very day a highly respected gun. It is well over 100

years old. The Luger is close to 100 years old, and there were hundreds of thousands of them in World War I. The weapons have been there for a long, long time. . . .

The new factor, is that the violent video games are giving the boys the skill and the will to kill; even as we reduce the number of weapons, the ability to use the weapons has gone up. If a criminal wants drugs, he'll get drugs, anywhere in the world. Drugs are illegal, but if the criminal wants drugs, he'll get them. If a criminal wants guns, he'll get them. No matter how illegal you make them, if a criminal wants them, he'll get them. But, whether or not the teenager has the desire to use drugs—if drugs have been glamorized, and he's been taught that it is the right thing to do—it's the media and the violent video games, that are far more important in this equation. If there *is* a new factor occurring, [it's that] we're greatly reducing the supply of guns. And yet, the incidence of these kinds of brutal murders—that has never happened before in human history, never before in human history.

EIR: That is an important point to make. This case in Erfurt has a couple of strange aspects to it: The police found in the house of the murderer, the video game Counterstrike. They also found that he apparently had, from the Internet, and whatever sources, a lot of material on Littleton, the Columbine High School massacre. Apparently he trained for this for a full year, and nobody noticed. What is your explanation of that?

Grossman: The violent video games—there are literally hundreds of thousands of kids around the world who are avidly—it may be that there are millions of kids, who are training, like this boy was training. They're watching the movies, they're playing the games.

Counterstrike is an interesting game. Let me tell you some of the specifics about Counterstrike, that makes it particularly interesting: Number one, in this game, you break up into two groups. You can play the counterterrorist team, which are hunting down the terrorists, or you can play the terrorist. They break up into teams, and they actively engage in it, and those who are playing the terrorists, kill the innocents, and get points for it, you see. And so, in this game, it is not a game in which the good guys win, and you play the good guys, it's a game in which you play the bad guys. And you get points for killing innocents as the bad guys.

Furthermore, Counterstrike is a game which has a complex set of rules that rewards head shots. If you shoot at the enemy, and you hit them in the torso, you might get 15, 20, 30% probability of a kill, but if you shoot at the head, you get a 90% probability of a kill. And so, while you are shooting, you are trained in the game to do double taps to the head, poom-poom, poom-poom, two, three, four, five shots to the head, which is what's happened in the actual phenomenon: be trained to perform a certain way. Shoot the enemy in the head with multiple hits, and that is exactly what happened. It's a very realistic game, in which heads explode, and bodies fall, and people twitch, and they die.

EIR: Why do you think nobody noticed this for one full year—because everybody says he behaved completely normal?

Grossman: Because there are literally tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of children like him, and they are all training to do the same thing, and the media tell us that this is normal! We have commercials on TV in America, we have commercials for the violent video games, and we're told that doing this is as normal as eating potato chips. Why should anybody be concerned about something that the media tell us is as normal as buying a pair of socks, or eating potato chips?

EIR: There was a case in 1996, in Port Arthur, Tasmania, in Australia, where some combat shooter killed 35 people, wounding 22. And the point was made that the killed-to-injured ratio, was 1.6:1, which is exceptionally good. Now, in the case of the Erfurt boy, he killed 16, and wounded, I think, 6 or 9. You have a killed-to-injured ratio of 2.5:1, approximately. Now, can you really acquire that kind of skill, which puts you in a special forces kind of level? Can you get that from computer games alone?

Grossman: Absolutely. I'll give you another case, the Paducah, Kentucky case [of 14-year-old killer Michael Carneal].

EIR: Yes, I'm familiar with that case.

Grossman: A stunning case. You know, I train the FBI, I train our Green Berets, and nobody in history can find an equivalent achievement of marksmanship skills. He fired eight shots, got eight hits on eight different kids, five of them were head shots; the other three, upper torso. Three of those children, with just one 22 caliber bullet—a 22 caliber bullet is a very small, anemic round—he put one 22 caliber bullet in every child. Three of them were killed, and one of them is paralyzed for life.

Now, this is the kind of supernatural shooting skills we're seeing. Part of it is visualization. Understand that a flight simulator can't teach a kid to fly. A flight simulator doesn't teach you to fly; it makes the learning curve much, much, faster. So, if you spend endless hours in a flight simulator, when you get in a real plane, you learn much faster. The kid in Paducah had spent countless thousands of hours playing the murder simulator, the point-and-shoot video games. He stole a pistol from a neighbor's house, and he fired two clips of ammunition—now that was his flight training—he fired two clips of ammo from a real pistol. Prior to that he'd never fired an actual pistol, but he transitioned very, very quickly from the simulator to the reality, because of all of his thousands of rounds.

One thing on this boy in Erfurt, that we need to look for (and so far nobody has mentioned), is: I will bet you, that if we look at it, we'll find some local video arcade, where the boy played the point-and-shoot video games a lot. Do they have the point-and-shoot video games in Germany? You hold the plastic gun and shoot at targets on the



Clueless or complicit? The March 6, 2000 issue of Newsweek (left), which served as a promotional for video-game violence directed toward children, and the March 13, 2000 issue reporting on the shooting of a child in Michigan by a classmate who played violent video games. The connection between the two should be obvious.



screen, in the video arcades. . . .

The average person doesn't comprehend how much bullets cost. Ammunition, bullets, are very expensive. Now, this boy does not have some vast amount of money available to him. He's already bought a pistol and a rifle. We know that he had about 500 rounds of ammunition in the school with him. He was a member of a club, but I would be interested to know how many rounds he had fired. Here, in America bullets cost about a quarter, for a 9 mm round. . . . So, imagine that you paid one euro for every four shots, that's in America. Now, I'll bet in Germany, it's more. It's worth checking in on. Check how much ammunition costs.

EIR: The funny thing is, he became a member of at least two clubs, one police club, and another sports shooting club. But after he had his weapon possession card, he went there only rarely. But, he was unavailable all day, because his parents didn't even know he had been kicked out of school. He pretended to go to school. So he apparently went somewhere else to train.

Grossman: Yes, and I'll bet you it was the video games. You see, training with ammunition, is very, very expensive. You can easily burn \$1,000, or 1,000 euros, in a single day, easily, within the blink of an eye. This boy had to be getting his training, and I'll bet you anything he was getting his training from the video games. There is some video arcade, somewhere, where this kid hung out, day, after day, after day, and rehearsed.

EIR: That is an interesting thing. I will definitely look into it. But I'd like to ask you a couple of more questions.

Now, in 1972, the U.S. Surgeon General already issued a report, saying there is a direct proof of the connection of media violence and youth violence.

Grossman: Yes, in 1972, the same Surgeon General who said tobacco causes cancer—everybody in the world knows that tobacco is bad for you; the same Surgeon General who says tobacco is bad for you, said that media violence causes violence in kids. So the Surgeon General, in 1972, made a definitive statement about violent visual imagery, all by itself, just watching a violent movie, being able to enable violence. C. Everett Koop, another Surgeon General, made another definitive statement. Joycelyn Elders, another Surgeon General, made another definitive statement. Our current Surgeon General has made definitive statements—all those statements were about violent visual imagery.

And then, the first definitive statement about the violent video games was made in July 2000; there was a bipartisan, bicameral Congressional conference—now this is basically both houses, both parties of the U.S. Congress—and at that conference, a joint statement was made by the medical community—this was the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This is all of our doctors, all of our pediatricians, all of our psychologists, all of our child psychiatrists—and what they said was: Media violence causes violence in kids, and the violent video games are particularly dangerous. Their specific statement was: Because of their interactive nature, the violent video games are demonstrated to be particularly dangerous; because of their interactive nature.



New Line Cinema

A student kills his teacher in this scene from the cult classic, "The Basketball Diaries." The glorification of dehumanized killing is presented to youths as "cool"—the more "mature" (a dubious appellation at best) the rating, the "cooler" it is made to appear.

That's the first major, joint statement on the video games.

Now, let me continue to give you the video-game research. A meta-study released this year, by Dr. Craig Anderson, the University of Iowa—a meta-study is a study of studies—indicated the fact that the body of scholarly research on the video games definitively shows that they are extremely harmful. A study was done by the National Institute of Media and the Family; it was released last Spring. And what they did—they took over 500 high school boys, who didn't have extensive access to video games, and they broke these boys into two groups: the ones who were prone to high levels of violence, as demonstrated by actual behavior in school, as reported by their teachers, and the ones with low levels of violence. And then they took these children, and gave them violent video games, their own play-station with violent games, and they sent them home.

Now the kids have joined the world of violent video-game players, and they measured their actual behavior in school. What they found was, the ones who had low levels of violence prior to the video games, are now more violent than the kids with high levels of violence [before]. At the end of one semester, the kids with high levels of violence are now through the roof in the degree of violence. This is what we call the "pathological play phenomenon." Video games teach you to kill, and they make killing a conditioned reflex, and you put a gun in your hand, and these people are extraordinarily deadly.

But, there are several things that video games do, and let me track them one by one.

The first is the pathological play. Now, when you and I were kids, we played "toy guns." Did you ever play "toy guns"?

EIR: No.

Grossman: Most children do. They had toy guns, and they said, "Bang, bang, I got you, Ozzie." And I said, "Bang, bang, I got you," to my sister, and my sister said, "No, you didn't." So, I hit her with my cap-gun. And she cried, and she went to Mama, and I got in big trouble. And I learned that my sister is real, and my brother is real, the dog is real, the kids are real. If I hurt them, I'm going to get in trouble. This is a lesson. You know, children go through the biting stage, and children go through the hitting stage. Every child goes through a stage when they hit. It's a developmental phenomenon. Every child, almost every child, goes through a stage when they bite, and they've got to be taught not to do that. That this is a harmful phenomenon. . . .

Now, in the violent video games, I blow my virtual playmates' heads off, and see explosions of blood countless thousands of times. Do I get in trouble? I get points! You see, this is pathological play.

EIR: What you said before, that never in history some mechanism like that existed—

Grossman: Let me ask you this: Do you know what the all-time record—let's define juvenile as 18 and below—if we define juvenile as 18 and below, do you know what the all-time record juvenile mass-murder in human history is?

EIR: No.

Grossman: Columbine High School. The all-time Guinness World Record, juvenile mass-murder in human history is Columbine High School.

EIR: Well, now topped by Erfurt.

Grossman: Well, he was 19. We would have to define juvenile as 21 or below. Do you see?

EIR: I see.

Grossman: If you define juvenile as 21 or below, which many people do, then Erfurt is clearly the all-time record juvenile mass-murder in human history. Prior to Columbine, the all-time record juvenile mass-murder in human history was Jonesboro, Arkansas, with an 11- and a 13-year-old boy.

You see, these things have never happened before in history. The gun, the primary killing instrument at Columbine was a 12-gauge, pump-action shotgun; 12-gauge, pump-action shotguns have been in existence for over a century—well over a century. The primary killing instrument in Jonesboro was a 30 calibre M-1 carbine, a World War II weapon. It's been in existence for half a century. Hundreds of thousands manufactured and distributed. But it is only today that we've got children willing to commit these crimes. And the



A scene from the comic book "Pokémon: The Electric Tale of Pikachu." Colonel Grossman describes the Pokémon cult movies, oriented toward young children, as "entry-level violence. . . . When we take violence, and we market it to children, it's the addictive ingredient. They're rivetted to it."

new factor is not the guns. The new factor is the murder simulators.

Dr. Jim Magee did the primary profile on all the school killers. Dr. James Magee did the profile, and he calls them the "classroom avenger." He profiled 17 of the school killers in America. Every single one of the school killers was infatuated with media violence. He said that the one factor that they all had in common is this infatuation with media violence.

So, this pathological play. Now, understand what I'm talking about: We know that puppies and kittens aren't real. You cannot get a murder charge for killing a puppy. You can't get a manslaughter charge for killing 10,000 kittens. But, the way a child treats a puppy predicts the way that he will treat real people.

Now, the creatures on the video game are not real. The individuals on that screen, on the video game are not real, any more than a puppy or a kitten is a real person. But, the way that they treat those people predicts what is going to happen in real life. Now, what if, every time your child makes the puppy cry, you gave him a cookie, wouldn't that be sick? Every time your child crushes a kitten, you give him a cookie. That would be sick. But we immerse them in the video-game environment, and they cause horrible death and suffering on their virtual playmates, and they get a cookie. You see, that's

the pathological play.

EIR: I fully agree, but let me ask you this: Well, I don't know if you know, but two years ago, I made a conference presentation in the United States, which was in the aftermath of Littleton, where I looked at the evolution of violence. And I started with some of the so-called cult movies. . . . "Friday the 13th," "Natural Born Killers," and all of these others. I even included Pokémon, because in my view, Pokémon is like an entry track, because the emotionality is completely negative.

Grossman: Just like Power Rangers. It's violence marketed at very young children. Exactly. Yes.

EIR: Oh, you agree with that?

Grossman: They're entry level. See, entry-level violence, it begins at very low levels, and then it works on up. Power Rangers, to me, is the worst thing out there. And Pokémon is a notch below Power Rangers. But when we take violence, and we market it to children, it's the addictive ingredient. They're rivetted to it.

EIR: I accidentally met a six-year-old boy, who was Pokémon-addicted. I was shocked about what he said. He said that

everybody, every child in the world knows Pokémon. And I said, “No, many people, many children in the world are too poor to even have access.” And he said, “Well, if they are poor, we should kill them, because if we don’t kill them, they’ll kill us.” I got so shocked, that I started to investigate this whole matter.

But actually, I wanted to ask you something else. I may come back to this Pokémon question. But, given the fact that for any reasonable human being, even if you only assume a desensitization, and becoming more brutalized and bestialized—I mean, for me, that would be enough of a reason not to have this stuff.

Grossman: Right. The pathological play phenomenon.

EIR: Right. But given the fact that this started in the military, to increase kill-ratio, because after World War II and the Korean War, people came to the conclusion that this was not high enough. What I would be interested in is, where did this thing go commercial?

Grossman: Well, it was almost an example of parallel evolution. The truth is that the bleed-across from military to civilian was almost non-existent. A taboo line had been crossed. When the military started shooting real depictions of human beings instead of bull’s-eye targets, then it became okay for the civilian world to do it.

You see, in World War II, there really was a cultural taboo against practicing shooting depictions of human beings. It just was not done. We couldn’t really fully grasp the fact that we’re going to kill human beings, and so we taught them to shoot at bull’s-eye targets. Once the military transitioned into shooting at man-shaped silhouettes, then that was aped and mimicked by the civilian population with the violent video games. But it is really a process of parallel evolution, if you will.

EIR: But it was not the general public which produced these videos, it was commercial interests.

Grossman: It was, but the commercial interests were often little garage enterprises. It didn’t take a great deal of technology. The first real bleed-across in these things was when the military began to adopt the civilian games to train their own people. And they began—

You see, again, bullets are very expensive, ranges are expensive. Firing real guns is, in any large quantity, a very expensive proposition. And here, the civilian world has come up with simulators that allow us to do this at very cheap prices, and the military just virtually bought them off the shelf. The initial game was a duck hunt. I don’t know if you remember, it was one of the early Nintendo games. You had a plastic pistol, and little images popped up on the screen. You know, the gun probably cost \$5, just a light gun, to mass produce it. The video-game imagery was very cheap, and yet it was teaching pistol marksmanship skills phenomenally well. So, the United States Army bought a

couple thousand Nintendo games, replaced a plastic pistol with a plastic M-16.

EIR: What is your suggestion for how to get rid of this problem?

Grossman: Let’s talk about the violent video games. You see, one of the problems is that the violent video games have allied themselves with the television industry. Initially, when these video-game problems became public, after the Columbine massacre, the television industry had declared open season on the video-game industry. The television industry was doing some great exposés on the video-game industry, and was beating them up. The video-game industry immediately allied themselves with the television industry. Their lobbyists are now the same organization. Their lobbyists work for each other now.

What happened was that [Motion Picture Association president] Jack Valenti is the head lobbyist for Hollywood. The video-game industry basically fell under them. They accepted their protection, because what happened was, the television industry quickly figured out, that if we control video games, the television industry is next. Once you acknowledge that anything harmful can come over that screen, once you get in people’s mind that something harmful can come over that screen, then the television industry’s impact on children is next. The television industry has engaged in the most systematic disinformation campaign in human history. The American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the Surgeon General—everybody’s screaming from the mountainside, and yet the television industry has managed to keep the average American citizen ignorant of the harmful impacts of this product.

So, the thing that we’re fighting here is the political influence of the television industry. Europe can be the vulnerable flank. Europe, and this tragedy in Europe, can really be an opportunity to do “maneuver warfare,” *Auftragstaktik*. We find an area of weakness. We pit strength against weakness—

EIR: I can tell you, that I was actually positively surprised to see, that the debate here after the Erfurt event was much more to the point, pointing to these killer videos. But, I’m a little bit afraid, that if one does not really move—because what you need is legislation on a national level, but you need an international movement. So, I have proposed that Germany should use this shock—and the whole population is under shock—to propose an international protocol for prohibition and proscription.

Grossman: Right. Let me tell you three things that I would like to see happen, and that I believe are achievable steps that ought to be strived for:

The first thing is, you know that Norway has a law that makes it illegal to market to children. Children are not fair game. You cannot have a commercial telling children, “Buy

this toy.” You cannot have a commercial to children saying, “Eat this sugary substance.” Now, when Norway had joined the European Union (EU), they were trying to convince the rest of Europe to do it, and the rest of Europe just laughed them off. Because, frankly, the media interests won’t do that. But as soon as it’s no longer legal to market to children, then the Power Rangers and the Pokémon, and all of those other toxic things go away. . . . Quebec has a law like that. Now, Quebec is one of the poorest provinces in Canada, and yet they have one of the lowest crime rates. And one of the reasons why, is that Quebec, although the television bleeds in from other areas and on the cable TV, in Quebec it’s against the law to market to children. There aren’t as many shows selling violence to children.

So, number one, the Norwegian law should be fostered Europe-wide, and Germany should embrace that law right from the very beginning.

Number two: We should, obviously, restrict the violent video games. We should treat the violent video games like we do guns. If you want to ban them, that’s fine. I have no objection to that, but the reality is that we can put restrictions on them like we do with alcohol or tobacco, or better yet, with guns. We need to understand, that you need three things to kill. The weapon, the skill, and the will to kill. The video games provide two out of three. The murder simulators should be restricted, every bit as much as the guns should be restricted. If I give a child a gun, and I let him practice for a little while, I can take the gun away. But, if I give the child the will and the skill to kill, I can’t take that out of his hands. That’s permanent. And so, the video games obviously need to be severely restricted.

Number one, the Norway law: Don’t market to children. Number two, we limit access to video games. Number three, the Internet: The problem is, as long as children have access to the Internet, they’re going to be able to download the violent video games. So, they’re going to be able to play on the international forum. So, you might outlaw video games, but the children still get access. So here’s the answer to that one. The Internet should be treated like the Autobahn [Germany’s high-speed freeway]. The Internet equals the Autobahn. A child cannot drive a car. A child can get on the Autobahn, but only if an adult is driving him. Children should not have unrestricted access to the Internet. It should be illegal for any child to have access to the Internet without a filter. There are marvelous, marvelous filtering software products available. And the filtering software is getting better and better, year by year. It’s one of the areas where the technology is working for us. As the technology gets better and better, the filtering software gets better and better. And, just as a child should not drive himself on the Autobahn, a child should not be permitted to navigate himself around the Internet, and there should be filtering software, and no child should be permitted to get on the Internet without filtering software. . . .

The German government needs to hold the German video-

game industry accountable. We need to sue them. They have products that they know are for adults only. Their own rating system says it is for adults only, but they refuse to accept any regulation of the product. Do you understand the legal liability, if you have a product that you acknowledge is for adults only, and yet actively market the product to children?

EIR: But why cannot the Parliament, the Congress, simply enact laws and forbid it?

Grossman: Yes, that’s good, but then go back and punish them, for what they’ve done so far. And so you see, you get them from two directions. Number one, you ban them from doing it any more, and number two, you go back and punish them for what they’ve done so far. . . . Imagine if they refuse to set any regulation on their product when it comes to children, and then a child, under the influence of their alcohol has a traffic accident and kills somebody. This industry should be held accountable.

EIR: I agree. I thank you very much.

There is a whole other subject matter which has already poisoned the minds of millions of people around the world, and obviously one has to think what one can do to eventually undo the damage from that, because of what happens to society.

Grossman: The most important thing is the Stanford Study, the one thing that I had yet to tell you about. Stanford University demonstrated, that, in the end, the most powerful solution to this problem is education. . . . Simply by educating children about the health impact of violent video games and violent television, there was a 40% reduction in violence in this test score, because the majority of the children voluntarily turned it off. When their elementary school teachers tell them about this, the children believe it, they know it, and they take action.

EIR: I not only mean education about videos, but education in general. In Germany, the education reforms, 30 years ago, have eliminated this basic education of the character. And if you don’t have that, and you only go for facts and multiple-choice kind of learning, then you destroy the basis for the inner resistance of the child.

Grossman: And more than that, what happens is you’ve created a vacuum. If you don’t fill their character, the media will. And if we neglect our responsibility to teach character to the children, then the television industry does. And what Hollywood teaches our children is not what we want. Hollywood teaches the children that violence is good, violence is needed. It takes away any restraints for discipline on the child, and the result is horror.

EIR: Yes, I fully agree. I’m very happy that I was able to talk to you.

Grossman: God bless you, and thank you for all.

EIR's Record on Video-Game Violence

1996: Lt. Col. David Grossman publishes *On Killing—The Psychological Cost of Learning To Kill in War and Society* (Boston: Little Brown). (Reviewed in *EIR*, July 2, 1999.)

Dec. 1, 1997: Michael Carneal, a 14-year-old student and violent-video-game player in Paducah, Kentucky, kills three students and wounds five.

April 20, 1999: Massacre at Littleton, Colorado's Columbine High School. Two students kill 12 students and a teacher, wounding 24, before committing suicide.

May 14, 1999: *EIR* publishes an article by Anton Chaitkin and Jeffrey Steinberg, "Unnatural Born Killers: Video Brainwashing and Littleton," accompanied by an interview with Colonel Grossman, "Video Games Teach Children To Kill."

June 4, 1999: *EIR* publishes "Who Are the Video Game Brainwashers," by Anton Chaitkin, and "Families of Victims Sue Video Producers."

July 2, 1999: *EIR* cover story leads with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "Star Wars and Littleton," in which he emphasizes that "this murderous rampage will persist . . . whether or not the producers and distributors of cult-films and Nintendo-style video games intend that specific effect." Other articles include "Army, Hollywood Plan Joint 'Virtual Reality' Institute," by Anton Chaitkin; "Tofflers' 21st-Century Strategic Insanity," by Jeffrey Steinberg; "Satanic Subversion of the U.S. Military," by Jeffrey Steinberg; "The Games Utopians Play," by Michael Minnicino; "The Genocidalist Who Built Video Games" (on Jay Forrester); "Drugs, Sex, Cybernetics, and the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation," by Michael Minnicino; and "John von Neumann: 'Automaton,'" by Michael Minnicino.

Feb. 20, 2000: Helga Zepp-LaRouche gives a speech on "The Mark of the Beast: American's Children Are in Mortal Danger," to a conference of the Schiller Institute and International Caucus of Labor Committees. Published in *EIR*, March 17, 2000. She reviews the influence of Pokémon and Animé videos, as well as violent movies, on young minds, pre-teen as well as teen.

March 10, 2000: *EIR* publishes a review of *Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill: A Call To Action Against TV, Movie & Video Game Violence*, by Lt. Col. David Grossman and Gloria DeGaetano (New York: Crown Publishers, 1999).

March 17, 2000: Interview with Colonel Grossman published in *EIR*, "Media Violence: Giving Children 'the Skill and the Will To Kill.'"

April 8, 2000: At a town meeting in New York City, Lyndon LaRouche urges the formation of a National Commission Against the "New Violence." *EIR*, May 5, 2000 prints speeches by LaRouche, Dennis Speed of LaRouche's 2000 Presidential campaign; Minister Charles Quinn Muhammad, the former head of the Nation of Islam in Jackson, Mississippi, and his wife Esther Quinn Muhammad; Dr. Kildare Clark, assistant medical director of King's County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York; Matthew Fogg, chief inspector deputy, U.S. Marshal, and founder of the Congress Against Racism and Corruption in Law Enforcement; and Pennsylvania State Rep. Harold James (D).

April 26, 2000: LaRouche issues a policy memorandum for his Presidential campaign, "What Is the New Violence?" (reprinted in this issue).

May 5, 2000: Anton Chaitkin writes in *EIR*, "Video-Game Companies 'Are Making a Killing'"; the article is accompanied by short profiles of the top ten companies in killer video games. Jeffrey Steinberg writes "From Cybernetics to Littleton: Techniques of Mind Control," tracing the mindset behind killer video games to Lord Bertrand Russell, Aldous Huxley, John von Neumann, and the immediate aftermath of World War II, including notably the work of the Frankfurt School and the London Tavistock Institute. He profiles the MK-ULTRA mind-controllers and the influence of the Cybernetics Group.

May 20, 2000: Formation of the National Commission Against the New Violence in New York City. Speeches by Lyndon LaRouche and Lt. Col. David Grossman, originally published in *EIR*, June 2, 2000, are reprinted in this issue.

April 26, 2002: An expelled student from a school in Erfurt, Germany, shoots and kills 16 people and himself at his former school. He had trained for a year on violent video games, notably "Counterstrike."

April 29, 2002: Helga-Zepp LaRouche, chairman of the Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo) party in Germany, issues a statement on the Erfurt killing, which is published in *EIR*, May 17, 2002 (reprinted in this issue). Alexander Hartmann provides accompanying documentation on "Media, Arms Producers Make Killer Video Games" (also in this issue).

May 24, 2002: *EIR* publishes interview with Colonel Grossman, "Violent Video Games Reward Children for Killing People." Helga Zepp-LaRouche is the interviewer in a wide-ranging discussion, reprinted in this issue.

June 13, 2002: Helga Zepp-LaRouche, during a visit to São Paulo, Brazil, gives a presentation to the São Paulo State Appellate Criminal Court titled "Stop the 'New Violence,' Create a New Renaissance." It appears in *EIR*, July 5, 2002.

Oct. 2, 2006: An adult gunman kills five girls and himself at an Amish school in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

April 16, 2007: Mass killing at Virginia Tech. Cho Seung-Hui, a student and violent-video-game aficionado, kills 32 people, before taking his own life.

Nations Get Back To Building The Eurasian Land-Bridge

by Mary Burdman

After being pushed to the “back burner” for close to a decade, the Eurasian Land-Bridge is again at the forefront on discussions among nations of the world’s largest landmass. The last great phase of building the Eurasian railroad was in the 1990s, after the breakup of the Soviet bloc. Then, for the first time in history, the critical links—China-Kazakhstan-Europe and Iran-Turkmenistan—were built to finally connect Central Asia and Russia directly to East and Southwest Asia.

In May 1996, the government of China sponsored the International Symposium on Economic Development of the Regions Along the Euro-Asia Continental Bridge, in which the proposals of U.S. economist Lyndon LaRouche played a shaping role. This was one among many high-level discussions of this great project. The strategic battle was between this policy, and the virulent “globalization agenda” being spread from the City of London, Wall Street, and continental European financial capitals. Globalization prevailed—for the time. While there were some accomplishments, such as the laying of the final kilometers of track connecting the Trans-Korean railroad, little else was achieved. The great “missing links” in the Land-Bridge remained missing.

Now, there is a strategic shift, in line with the political shakeup delivered to the United States by the emerging “New Politics” of its younger generations, and recognition in the Eurasian giants—Russia, China, and India—that they must take action to prevent total economic collapse. Since late 2006, building rail and supplementary transport links has been on the agenda at every important meeting of Eurasian governments, and a constant theme in national capitals. Most important, in many places, the nations are, at least partly, financing these projects themselves or in cooperation, and not waiting for funding from the United States or Europe. Now, rail lines, accompanied by pipelines, roads, and other infra-

structure, are being planned to cross the Himalayas, the Bering Strait, and the Tibetan Plateau—the most extreme geography in the world.

These international projects are being powered by developments in China and Russia. On Feb. 9, Vladimir Yakunin, head of the state-owned firm Russian Railways, announced during a visit to Rome that Russia is planning to build high-speed rail links among its major cities, and to Finland by 2012-14. The planned links are Moscow-St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg-Helsinki, Moscow-Kazan, Moscow-Samara, and Moscow-Adler, a port on the Black Sea.

Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan in central European Russia, and lies on the conflux of the Volga and Kazanka rivers. Samara also lies on the Volga, in the Volga Federal District. “The first high-speed trains will run between Moscow and St Petersburg, with a maximum speed of over 300 km/hour,” Yakunin announced. He was in Rome to sign a memorandum of understanding for technological cooperation with Italian companies.

China launched its own high-speed rail system on April 18, with 280 new Chinese-made bullet trains, which will link China’s main cities at speeds of 250 km per hour. In March, the Shanghai authorities confirmed that they will extend the existing maglev between the airport and Shanghai (the only commercial maglev in the world) to Jiaxing, a small city in Zhejiang, as the first leg in the planned 160-km maglev link to Hangzhou. China is now developing its own maglev technology.

The country will spend 1.5 trillion renminbi on its rail system from 2006-10, and will lay enough track to encircle almost three-fourths of the globe, its Rail Ministry announced. China will add 17,000 km of track to its system, already the third longest in the world. Funding will be by the

FIGURE 1

Eurasia: Main Routes and Selected Secondary Routes of the Eurasian Land-Bridge



government with private input, with the government raising as much as 14 billion renminbi in bonds. The construction will include a new railway linking Lanzhou, Gansu Province, to Chongqing, the largest city in central China. Lanzhou is an important city on the Second Euro-Asian Continental Bridge, the rail line from Lianyungang on China's Pacific coast, to Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Ultimately, this new rail line will be a direct connection between Central Asia (Alashankou-Xinjiang-Lanzhou) and Southeast Asia (Chongqing-Guiyang-Kunming-Hekou).

This new 817-km rail line will be the first major transport infrastructure in the poor and isolated rural areas of Gansu, Shaanxi, and Sichuan provinces. The rail link will provide the shortest north-south rail route from Xinjiang, Baoji, and Lanzhou in northwest China, to Chongqing and Kunming.

Across the Himalayas

China completed its railroad to "the roof of the world," the first-ever rail link to Tibet, when the 1,956-km Qinghai-Tibet Railway was finished in July 2006. The next step is already planned: The line will be extended from the capital Lhasa to Xigaze, a city 280 kilometers to the southwest, and, most important, much closer to the borders with India and the

Himalayan states of Nepal and Bhutan. This line should be finished by 2010. Eventually, the entire rail line will be able to carry 7-10 million tons of cargo a year, at speeds of 120 km per hour. China has also been developing plans to eventually build the Tibet rail line even farther, to the town of Chomo, or Yadong, which is 315 km southwest of Lhasa and close to the strategic Nathu La pass to India.

India is also looking to the Himalayas. Whether India is spurred by geopolitical concerns about China, or realizing its own urgent need to develop its mountainous hinterlands, on April 9 *The Indian Express* reported that the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), is now close to finishing a report on possible rail lines to five cities in Nepal. Geographically, access to Tibet is (relatively) much easier from the Indian Subcontinent side. Historically, traders, British imperialists, and almost everyone else used this route rather than via central China.

As a sign of rapidly improving Indian-Chinese relations, Nathu La was re-opened last year for direct India-China trade, the first time since the 1962 border war. Important sections of the Indian-Chinese border in the area remain to be resolved, but the border has been peaceful for decades. Rail links would revolutionize the entire region. Indian Railways is also carry-

ing out a survey on building the first-ever rail line to Sikkim, the Himalayan state which joined the Indian Union in 1975. This would begin as a cargo line, to supplement the national highway 31A, which is the only road link between Sikkim and the rest of India.

Indian Railways is surveying laying rail on a 50-km route from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim; the report will be completed in four to five months, and then go to the railway board for final approval. There were two efforts to build rail links under the British Raj, but neither reached all the way to Sikkim. The Teesta Valley line was destroyed by landslides in 1950. To date, the only India-Nepal rail link is the container inland port at Birgunj, Nepal, which is linked to Raxaul in Bihar state, India. *The Express* quoted a senior Indian Railway Board member saying, "Although the [Chinese] Lhasa-Nepal link may neither be technically feasible nor financially viable, the strategic importance of such a link cannot be undermined." A RITES official said that the "possibilities of extending railheads on the Indian side into Nepal are being explored. Nepal had also requested that the Indian Railways network be extended to Nepal wherever feasible."

Five routes are being considered, which would link cities in Uttar Pradesh, India, to Nepalgunj and/or Bhairawaha in Nepal; Jogbani in Bihar to Nepal's Viratnagar; New Jalpaiguri to Kakrabitta; and/or Jaynagar and Birdibas. All routes are "technically feasible"; the question is financial.

There is also a proposal to build a 174-km rail route between Raxaul in India and Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, primarily for freight. A detailed proposal by India's Pipavav Railway Corporation (PRCL) for the 174-km rail line was submitted to the Nepalese government in February. This would be an engineering feat, requiring 58 tunnels. The Indian report said that the rail line could "well connect the Nepalese railway system with Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi railway networks and may provide intra-regional connectivity." This would shorten the current road route to the Indian port of Kolkatta (Calcutta) by more than 150 km, and be much more efficient.

Eventually, the link could be extended to Myanmar and Thailand, once India builds a rail link to Southeast Asia.

Another rail line, equally breathtaking, is under consideration, to link Pakistan with China. On April 18, Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told the Communist Party School in Beijing, that the Pakistan-China partnership goes back to the "fabled Silk Route," and China's classic *Journey to the West*: "Pakistan is fast transforming into an economic, energy, trade, and communications hub linking the neighboring regions of South Asia, Central Asia, and West Asia," he said.

"Pakistan provides the shortest access to the sea for Western China. Our friendship highway over the Karakoram and road and rail networks to our deep water ports at the Arabian Sea are fast becoming a conduit for trade and energy transactions. These connect Western China as well as Central Asia

to the Gulf and the Middle East. It gives me great pleasure to mention that the Gwadar Port, completed with the assistance of China, was inaugurated on 20 March 2007. The Karakoram Highway is being upgraded. Feasibility studies are being undertaken to establish Pakistan-China rail links."

In late February, Associated Press of Pakistan reported that Pakistani Railways had signed agreements with the Austrian and German ILF Consulting Engineers, and its long-term partner, China's Dongfang Electric Corporation (DEC) and Second Survey and Design Institute, to make a pre-feasibility study of building a 750-km rail link between the city of Havelian, the westernmost end of the Karakoram highway, and 4,693-meter-high Khunjerab Pass at the Pakistan-China border. This already is the highest paved international connection in the world.

Under the Bering Strait

On April 18, Viktor Razbegin, deputy head of industrial research at Russia's Economic Development and Trade Ministry, gave a press conference in Moscow to propose a project that originated with Tsar Nicholas II in 1905. Russian officials are planning "to call on the governments of Russia, the United States, and Canada to sign an intergovernmental agreement to study and implement the project" to construct the world's longest rail tunnel under the Bering Strait to Alaska, Razbegin announced. This will be the key link of a 6,000-kilometer transport corridor running from Yakutsk, Sakha Republic, to Alaska.

This "TKM World Link" had been under discussion in the past, but was not given sufficient support to go forward. The total cost would be around \$60 billion, and government organizations and private investors would be asked to participate, Razbegin said. The tunnel could be finished in 9-12 years, he said, and would pay for itself in 13-15 years. Pipelines and cable links for oil, gas, and electricity would also be built, to transport energy east to North America.

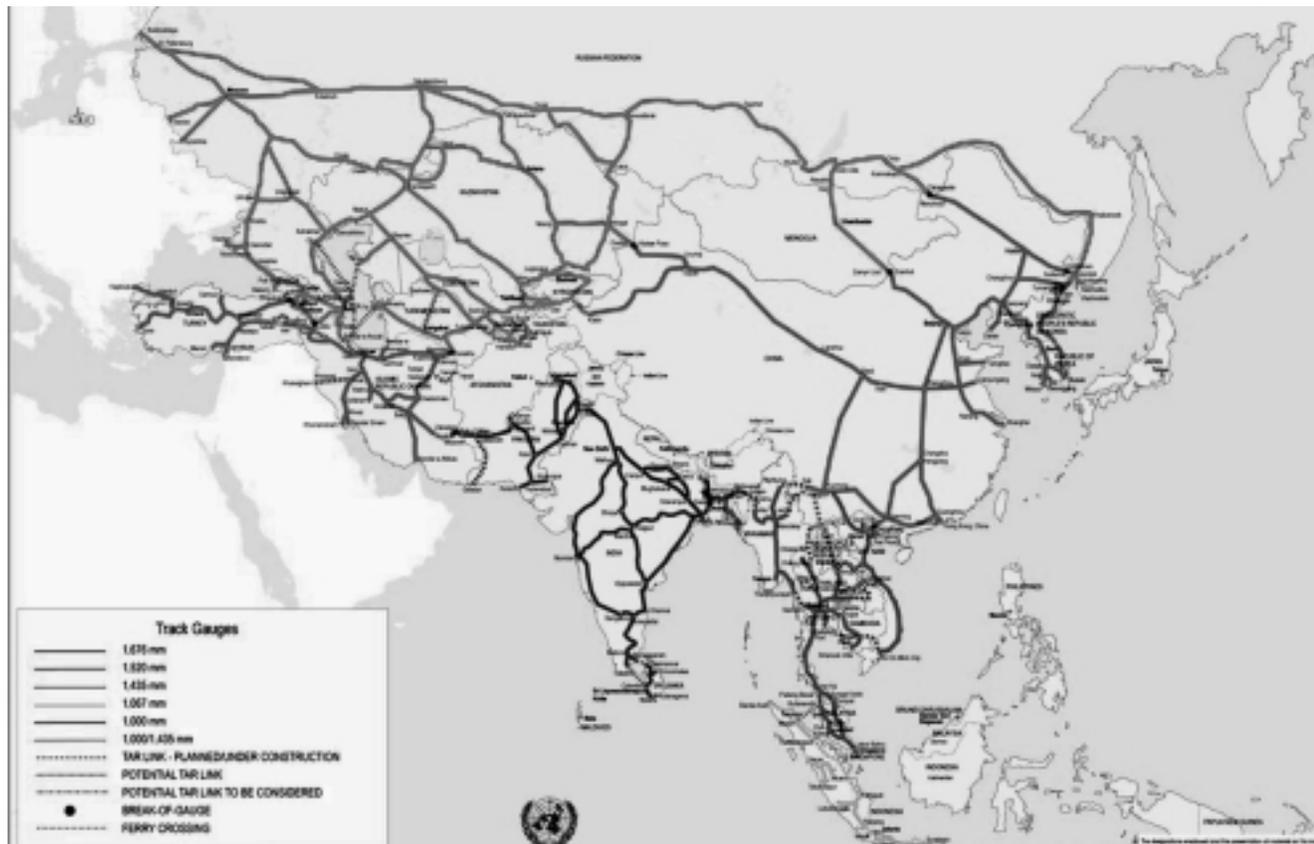
Russian officials have been visiting Canada and the United States to promote the project, which also has big supporters on the North American side. For example, former Alaskan governor Walter Hickel, now 88, a long-term supporter of the tunnel, will attend a Moscow conference on the project in late April.

This is only one of many proposals being made in Russia to develop its incredibly rich, but utterly underpopulated northeastern regions. When Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov visited Japan at the beginning of March, the two sides discussed cooperation in high-speed railways, and possibly building a rail tunnel from the mainland to Sakhalin, a project first proposed in the 1950s.

Along with the ongoing, steady diplomacy of the Six-Party talks to resolve the Korean peninsula crisis, Russia and China are both building infrastructure to develop the region. Russian and North Korean officials have also been discussing the Trans-Korean Railway, and the still-unfinished link to the

FIGURE 2

Trans-Asian Railway Network



Russian Trans-Siberian Railway. Meanwhile, China has finished a new railroad connecting Hunchun, to the Trans-Siberian at Hasan, Russia, according to South Korean Donga.com. This will connect China to the port of Zarubino in Russia.

Integrating the Subcontinent in Eurasia

The Indian Union government on March 8 decided to join the Trans-Asian Railway project (TAR), which was the goal of a conference in Busan, South Korea, in November 2006, where 18 nations signed the United Nations ESCAP agreement to renew the four-decades-old plan to build the remaining “missing links” among East, South, and Southeast Asian railways. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh did not sign at the time, but India has now ratified the agreement. The Southern Corridor of the TAR would link Kunming, southwest China, to India and eventually to the Bulgarian city of Kapikule on the Black Sea, involving links and cooperation with 18 nations. The proposal would link India at Tamu on the border with Myanmar, go through Bangladesh, and again to India, and then connect to the existing rail line to Pakistan.

Rail Minister Lalu Prasad’s initiative was followed up by Indian Railway board chairman JP Batra March 22, at the

first-ever meeting of the Asian Regional Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) in New Delhi. Batra announced that India is soon planning “construction of rail links to China and Myanmar [which] will help tap the economic potential of the region as well as promote peace in the region.” These would be launched as freight lines. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were linked by rail in the 19th Century, but no connections were built east or west. There is a 315-km break which must be built to link India and Bangladesh to Myanmar. (See accompanying article on Myanmar.)

India has already approved building 150 km on its side, and discussion on completing the project is going on, Batra said. The Ministry of External Affairs is considering how to finance the project.

To Russia, the rail link would be via Iran and a shipping link across the Caspian Sea. This will connect India to the “North-South Corridor” already being set up by Russia and Iran, Batra said. Russian-Indian rail connections were on the agenda when President Vladimir Putin visited India for Republic Day in January, and in early February, Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref had told the Indian *Financial Express* that it “would be great to

have a railway corridor between Russia (the Pacific) and India (Indian Ocean) via China. Now that relations among India, China, and Russia have improved and their economies are actively cooperating, we have all the prerequisites for reviving the [TAR] transportation project.”

At the March UIC conference, Russian Railways President Vladimir Yakunin proposed a consortium “led by India, Russia, and Iran,” to run a container service by rail-sea link. Russia already has signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran to build and operate a new railway line linking Qazvin and Rasht in northern Iran to the Azerbaijan Caspian Sea port of Astara. This is a key link in the North-South Corridor, and will connect the Russian and Azerbaijan railroads to Iran. There is already a Caspian Sea ferry link between Russia and Iran. In addition, new sea links from the Iranian port of Bander Abbas and Mumbai, India, are being planned. Russia is also offering India, among other nations, advanced technologies, including space and aircraft technologies, to help operate its huge system.

The Western Rail Link

Pakistan will finally be linked to the Iranian national rail system next year, Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation, Mohammad Rahmati, said in Tehran on April 14. Iran has been building the final link in its rail system—Kerman to Zahedan in southeastern Iran—and when this is completed, for the first time in history, the Indian Subcontinent will be linked to Asia and Europe by rail.

The Iranian city of Zahedan is already linked to the Pakistani system, at the border city of Mirjaveh, and this link runs via the Pakistani city of Quetta and from there, there are connections to the rail system of India. The Iran connection will be finished some time after March 21, 2008.

This announcement was made at the Iran-Pakistan Joint Conference on Transportation, which met in Tehran, attended by Pakistani Federal Minister for Communications Muhammad Shamim Siddiqui, leading a high-level delegation. Siddiqui said that many of those who enter Iran from Quetta, are pilgrims wanting to visit the holy city of Mashhad, in north-eastern Iran. Siddiqui called for building a railway direct to Mashhad.

Tehran is already connected to Turkey by rail, via Tabriz-Lake Van-Ankara, and thus to the rail systems of Europe. In 1996, the Mashhad-Ashkabad, Turkmenistan rail link was opened, for the first time connecting Iran and Southwest Asia directly to the nations of Central Asia. Before then, all the rail links of the Central Asian nations—then part of the Soviet Union—were only to Russia.

Rahmati then announced that “Iran is willing to access the transit road linking Pakistan to China [the Karakoram Highway]. We hope that an agreement will soon be finalized in this regard.” Rahmati also said that Iran is making it a priority to build a highway to connect the city of Chadbahar, on the Gulf of Oman, with the new Pakistani port of Gwadar.

First Railroad in Afghanistan?

Afghanistan, also, may for the first time in its history have a railroad. This ancient pathway from Central Asia to the Indian Subcontinent has never been brought into the world rail system—partly because Afghan leaders themselves, in the early 20th Century, reportedly wanted to ensure that it was as difficult as possible for Britain and Russia to enter their country. Incessant war has since prevented any such infrastructure construction. Proposals are now on the table: Pakistan, wants to build an 11-km rail link from Chaman to the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak. Iran also has a plan, but has enormous economic problems.

China is also part of the picture, while on April 7, a Russian Railway Company delegation visited Islamabad, where Minister Rashid Ahmed called for improved Russian-Pakistani economic relations. The Minister described the policy of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to make Pakistan the economic bridge between Asia and Europe via sea, road, and rail networks. Then, Russian Prime Minister Fradkov was in Pakistan April 11-13 for the first visit of a Russian Prime Minister there since 1969. Fradkov discussed rail and energy projects as well as other Eurasian cooperation. *Railway Market Magazine* reported April 20 that an agreement was signed that “Russia will build new rail lines

Iranian Maglev Will Link Tehran to Land-Bridge City

Political and industrial circles in Iran have taken the first small, but important step towards introducing the revolutionary technology of the Transrapid’s magnetic levitation trains into the Islamic Republic. What this will unleash among hostile circles in the West, who are bent on blocking Iran’s nuclear program—also on grounds of technological apartheid—is as yet unknown.

The news broke April 14, when Iranian media outlets reported on an agreement, struck at the Mashhad International Fair site, between Germany and Iran on the idea of a maglev train link between the capital city of Tehran and the holy city of Mashhad.

The Tehran-Mashhad link is crucial in the broader Eurasian Land-Bridge, transcontinental rail network stretching from China to Europe. In 1996, the Iranians succeeded in finishing a link between Mashhad and Sarakhs, filling in the “missing link” in the chain from Iran to China, through the Central Asian Republics. The Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan stretch completed that year, established this link between Iran and Turkmenistan; from there, the line

in Pakistan, including those going toward Iran.”

In addition, the proposed Khwuf-Herat railway, which would connect Iran and Afghanistan, was discussed by Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta at a press conference in Kabul on April 15. The proposal for this rail link was signed last year by the Presidents of Iran and Afghanistan. It will connect the city of Khwuf, northeast Iran, with the city of Herat in western Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister, just returned from a three-day visit to Iran, said that “once this railway project is implemented, northern and southern parts of Afghanistan will be connected to Pakistan. Besides railway lines inside the country will also expand.”

A Third Euro-Asian Continental Bridge

China and Kazakstan are now in the process of opening a second, modern rail port on their borders, at Korgas. The port will be opened at latest by 2009, but on March 19, Kazakstan’s Prime Minister, Karim Masimov, said the connection should be finished as early as next year. The rail link, built at the large highway land port, will begin by carrying 5 million tons of freight, which should build up to 10 million a year in a few years. Kazakstan itself wants to expand its own rail network, and is looking to build more rail links to Saryozek, Kulantebe,

or Jetigen, which will then be linked to eastern Europe. Currently, trains have to go via the Druzhba-Alashankou terminal, opened as the historic Second Euro-Asian Continental Bridge in 1992, but this is hampered by the difference in rail gauges between Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. The new corridor through Kazakstan will be built on the European and Chinese gauge standard, so that trains can pass through directly.

To the west, another rail line is being launched. Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia will begin construction in June, on a rail line to link Kars in eastern Turkey to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on the Caspian Sea, to so-called the TRANSECA Silk Road. A tunnel under the Bosphorus will be finished in 2009 at a cost of \$600 million. It will pass through Akhalkalaki and Tbilisi in Georgia. The line will link the rail systems of the three Caucasus nations, and, through connection to Kazakstan, will join Turkey to China.

There are geopolitical elements in this project, in that it avoids Russia. Kazakstan is promising 10 million tons of cargo for the line. “It’s possible that a significantly large volume of cargo could be attracted to the [railway], since we are actively working with China . . . to open a second gate to the East,” Transport and Communications Minister Serik Akhmetov said at Tbilisi on April 3.

should proceed all the way to China, as outlined in the Eurasian Land-Bridge report issued by EIR. That report, published in 1997, contained the speech by then Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who announced completion of the link, and the implications for Eurasian transportation.

Later reports specified that the agreement was a Memorandum of Understanding, for a feasibility study, the first step towards launching such a project. The agreement was signed between the Iranian Ministry of Roads and Transportation, and a German company—left unnamed. The fact that Iran’s First Vice-President Parviz Davoudi was also in attendance, was a sign, according to Iranian sources who spoke to *EIR*, that it was quite official.

According to the Governor General of Khorasan Razavi province, Mohammad-Javad Mohammadi-Zadeh, who spoke at the ceremony, the maglev would reduce travel time between Tehran and Mashhad to 2½ to 3 hours. It now takes about 14 hours, to make the 560-mile trip. He added that Germany would invest 6.7 billion euros in the project under a base operations support contract, according to which Iran would repay the loan within a 15- to 25-year period.

The maglev project has been under discussion in Iran for some time. On Aug. 29, 2006, the English language *Iran Daily* reported government plans to invest some \$1.5

billion in the project. *Iran Daily* referred to a Persian-language report that said that the total budget for the State Transportation Infrastructures Development Company was \$260 million a year through March 2007. Expert estimates suggested that the maglev project would cost more than \$15 billion. The *Iran Daily* also reported that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the government would finance the project from its Foreign Exchange Reserves Account. This is the Oil Fund, which is a fund of oil revenues earmarked for investment projects of this type.

According to the same account, Hossein Tehrani, deputy head of rail, airport, and port development, said that the Mellat Bank Investment Company, together with an unnamed German firm, would invest in the project, adding that such BOT (Build, Operate, Transfer) projects had to have the participation of a partner from an advanced sector nation. According to a report posted on the International Maglev Board Forum on April 19, such a BOT would mean that the investors would operate the line for a certain period of time, estimated to be 10-25 years, during which they would get a return on their investment plus a profit. Thereafter, the entire operation would come under Iranian control.

Another 5.2 billion euros, according to this source, would be put up by Germans, that is, Iranian investors living in Germany.—*Muriel Mirak-Weissbach*

Russia Building First Floating Nuclear Plant

by Marsha Freeman

At a ceremony on April 15, attended by the head of Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency, First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov, and the President of Kurchatov Institute, Yevgeny Velikhov, Russia inaugurated a program to construct the first series of floating nuclear power plants. Such stand-alone nuclear facilities, which can bring electric power and process heat to remote regions and underdeveloped nations, have been planned for decades. Now the world's first floating nuclear plant is finally under construction.

The first pair of ship-mounted 35-megawatt nuclear reactors, modelled on the units in operation for decades in Russia's submarines and nuclear-powered ice breakers, will be completed in 2010. They will supply power to the Sevmash shipyard, which builds nuclear-powered submarines, and where the ship for the floating plants is under construction. Some of the electricity from the nuclear plants will also be supplied to a nearby municipality.

As a commentator for *RIA Novosti* noted on April 14, floating nuclear power plants "are the dream of power-hungry regions and large industrial enterprises that require an uninterrupted power supply, when no centralized source is available." The first seven floating nuclear plant units are being designated for remote sites in Russia that are chronically short of power. These are scheduled to be on line by 2015. Reportedly, the natural gas giant Gazprom is considering units for its Arctic oil extraction operations.

Nuclear Power for All

But the real promise of this "new Russian technological wonder," is the introduction of nuclear power to developing nations. At the ceremony, where a commemorative plaque was dedicated, Russian nuclear officials reported that a dozen nations in Asia and Africa have expressed interest in obtaining floating nuclear power plants. In fact, Russia has offered to provide such technology to many countries, including Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Algeria, Argentina, and also Namibia, with which it is negotiating agreements to secure uranium for fuel.

The first ship-borne plants, named for Russian scientist Mikhail Lomonosov (1711-1765), are being built at the shipyard in Severodvinsk and will serve as a working model to be visited and examined by other nations, which are potential importers of the plants.

Responding to criticism about safety, nuclear agency head

Sergei Kiriyyenko stated that the safety guarantee "is the tremendous expertise built up by the Russian nuclear ice-breaking fleet, with its 7,000 reactor-years" of safe operations. The \$200-300 million Lomonosov will drop anchor in the White Sea, with an expected service life of 38 years.

When operating in other countries, the reactor units would be returned to Russia for defueling and maintenance. Russia will own and be responsible for the facilities, selling the plant's output to the customer. The plant is capable of supplying the power needs for a city of 200,000, and when used for desalination, can produce 240,000 cubic meters of fresh water daily.

When the ship arrives at its destination, towed by a tug boat, a minimum of infrastructure is needed beforehand. Transformer units for the power, pumps, and other auxiliary equipment will all be on the barge. It is estimated that one floating nuclear power plant will replace up to 200,000 tons of coal, or 100,000 tons of petroleum, per year.

Reactors on Barges

The concept of placing nuclear reactors on barges, that can be situated in the ocean, on shore, and in estuaries, is not a new one. In 1972, Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey, signed a contract with Offshore Power Systems, owned by Westinghouse, to purchase two floating nuclear plants. A few months later, the utility exercised an option to buy two additional units. Two years after that, an application was submitted to the regulatory agency to build the Atlantic Generating Station, 2.8 miles off the New Jersey coast, about 11 miles northeast of Atlantic City. The first plant was to come on line in mid-1988.

Between 1972 and 1978, Offshore Power Systems spent \$100 million for dredging, construction, and materials purchases at the Blount Island factory, near Jacksonville, Florida, to prepare for the manufacture of the world's first floating nuclear power plants. The concept was to place a conventional plant on top of a barge and float it to the desired location. Other electric utilities, on the East and West coasts, expressed interest.

These plants were never built. Even before the accident in 1979 at Three Mile Island, political sabotage by the well-funded neo-Malthusian anti-nuclear movement had led to the demise of nuclear power. Floating nuclear plants eventually went the way of the more than 100 cancelled conventional reactors, and the never-built next-generation breeder reactors and high-temperature gas-cooled nuclear power plants.

Since 1998, Russia has been trying to rebuild, modernize, and reorganize its nuclear power industry. But this effort could not begin in earnest, until President Putin more recently reasserted Russia's national sovereignty, wresting control of strategic enterprises from privatizing oligarchs. While Russia is building new conventional nuclear power plants in Iran, China, and India, it is also making the most modern nuclear technology available for export.

Eurasian Powers Defy Sanctions on Myanmar

by Mike Billington

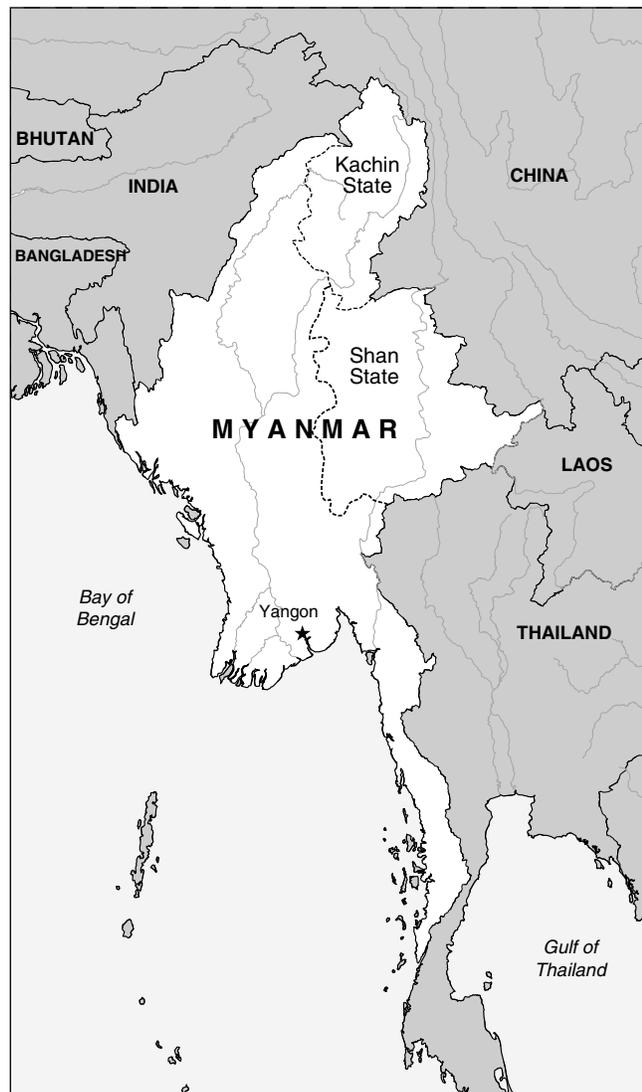
The more the United States and Britain attempt to impose sanctions on Myanmar, the more China and India respond by increasing cooperation and investment, mostly in transportation and energy development, in the nation which sits as a strategic hub between the world's two largest nations. Thailand, Myanmar's Southeast Asian neighbor, has also defied pressure from the U.S.A. and the European Union, expanding trade and investment with its historic regional rival. Russia, although not as deeply involved in the region, has also made its intentions clear, with new investments in oil and gas exploration and production.

Even the International Crisis Group (ICG), which generally sides with the human rights NGOs, reported recently that the effort to isolate Myanmar through sanctions was neither effective nor humane. An ICG report of Dec. 8, 2006 accused the George Soros-funded Open Society Institute (OSI) and others of pressuring the Global Fund, a UN body funded by the Group of 8 industrialized nations, to cut a \$98 million program to combat AIDS, TB, and malaria in Myanmar, causing the needless suffering and deaths of thousands of Myanmar citizens.

The Indo-Asian News Service of India, after reporting on April 13 on the extensive Indian investment in Myanmar oil and gas, hydroelectric, ports, roads, and rail, as well as military cooperation, added: All this is to the intense dislike of Washington, which, in 2003, enacted a Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act to apply sanctions against Myanmar's military rulers. Indian officials say while they too would want Myanmar to be a democracy, they don't share the American assessment that isolating the military junta is the way to go about it.

A Strategic Hub

A look at a map of Eurasia will indicate the strategic importance of Myanmar for the development of Eurasia as a whole. Of the three main routes for the Eurasian Land-Bridge, linking the Pacific and the Atlantic, the northern route through Russia, and central route through China and Central Asia, are completed in part, although in need of significant upgrading and transformation to high-speed and maglev systems. The southern route, however, through Southeast Asia, India, Pakistan, Iran and on to Russia and Turkey, has a huge gap in the middle, at Myanmar. This is primarily the result of the British colonial legacy, which left Burma (Myanmar) divided among



ethnic lines, with borders on all sides which were never truly in the government's control. Only now, with the nearly successful pacification of the ethnic insurgencies by the junta in Yangon, is the nation truly unified for the first time, and able to develop its rich resources while opening development corridors with India, China, and Thailand, and plugging the hole in the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

At a meeting of the Asian Regional Assembly of the International Union of Railways on March 21 in New Delhi, J.P. Batra, head of the Indian railway board, announced that as part of India's decision to join the Trans-Asian Rail Network (TARN), India will set up new rail links with Russia, Iran, and Myanmar. The first step is completing the rail links to Myanmar and then to China. In addition to the 215 km needed to close the gap from India to Myanmar, China is also planning a freight corridor of 660 km into Myanmar, linking up with the Indo-Myanmar rail line, and thus to Europe through

Russia or through Iran and Turkey.

India has also launched the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project, which will connect India's Mizoram State with Myanmar's Chin State via inland waterways and highways, with water access to the Bay of Bengal. The project will also upgrade the highway between Myanmar and Bangladesh. A car-rally through Bangladesh, China, India, and Myanmar is being planned for November to bring international attention to the opening up of the region.

On the eastern Myanmar border with Thailand, China and South Korea have financed feasibility studies to connect the two countries in two different locations, between Bangkok and Yangon, and in the north toward Mandalay.

In addition to Myanmar's huge offshore gas deposits in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, which are being developed by numerous international oil companies (even U.S. Chevron has a piece), India, China, and Thailand are also helping to develop the hydroelectric potential, especially along the Salween River, heretofore off limits due to ethnic insurgencies. Five dams are under construction or under contract on the Salween, by far the largest being the huge Tarhsan project, a joint venture between Thailand and Myanmar, with some Chinese participation. Tar-shan will have an installed capacity of 7,110 MW, most of which will be sold to Thailand, with some going without charge to Myanmar. Ground was broken for the project earlier this year, despite an international campaign to stop it by the oligarchical World-wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and its anti-growth minions.

Responding to the WWF charge that the dams will destroy the Salween before we even know what we are losing, and that Myanmar should be content with wind and biomass for its energy needs, a spokesman for the Myanmar government said: The Myanmar government will use every means to limit environmental effects on project areas. But we should not forget that industrialized countries have caused more damage to the environment than developing countries, and have given very little assistance to environmental conservation work in developing countries.

China and Myanmar have signed four deals this year for hydroelectric projects on the Salween, although none at the scale of the Tar-hsan project. China is also planning to build a crude oil terminal on the Bay of Bengal in Myanmar, and a 2,380 km pipeline to Yunnan Province, to move oil from the Persian Gulf as well as from the Myanmar oil fields, several of which are being explored and developed by China.

Were the United States to abandon the Bush Administration's mania for imperial regime change, and abandon the racist agenda of the Al Gore/WWF environmental genocidalists, in favor of an American System foreign policy, allying with the major powers of China, India, and Russia for great development projects across Eurasia and beyond, Myanmar would quickly emerge as a major strategic and economic regional power, overcoming at last the destructive legacy of British colonial policy.

Is Wolfowitz Dead Meat?

Policies, Not Scandal, Destroyed Wolfowitz

by EIR Staff

The ongoing battle, both within the World Bank and by European nations, to oust former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz from his position as head of the World Bank, cannot be explained by his stupid and corrupt payoffs to his girlfriend. Behind the drive to oust the man known as the architect of the disastrous Iraq War is not the fondling of his girlfriend's paychecks, but his policy of *genocide* against the developing sector, both through economic policies and through war.

Wolfowitz was unpopular at the World Bank from the time he took over in 2005; but over the course of the last weeks, the breaking scandal about his personal corruption—providing a huge pay raise for his girlfriend at a State Department position, while still on the World Bank payroll, without consulting the ethics committee at the Bank—has galvanized his opponents to demand his ouster. As of this writing, even the World Bank's Managing Director has joined the Bank's Staff Association and others in calling for Wolfowitz's resignation. The Bank's board—24 representatives from all over the world—is still debating its recommendation on Wolfowitz's fate.

Wolfowitz's Real Crimes

Wolfowitz's personal corruption—in providing for a transfer and a significant pay increase for a Bank employee, Shaha Riza, with whom he was romantically involved, particularly rankled the World Bank staff, who were commanded by Wolfowitz to implement a genocidal “anti-corruption” campaign.

Wolfowitz claimed from the beginning of his tenure that he had a special concern for the poorest nations, but he regularly accused countries which did not follow Bank (or U.S.) orders, of being corrupt and unworthy of Bank lending. Taking a page from his mode of operation at Rumsfeld's Pentagon, Wolfowitz cut off aid to targetted nations, without consulting the Board. Despite his pledge to increase lending to Africa through the Bank's International Development Association (which provides the lowest interest rates), Africa lending plummeted in fiscal 2007, from fiscal 2006.

According to the April 13 *New York Times*, leading examples of countries victimized by Wolfowitz's cuts, were Uzbekistan (just after it demanded the removal of U.S. troops),

India, Chad, Kenya, and other nations which had not toed the U.S. line. Cuts in aid to these poor nations de facto result in an increase in deaths by the stroke of the World Bank's pen. This is particularly clear in the case of Cambodia.

Cambodia, a nation which had sustained the greatest concentration of bombing per land area than any nation in history, under the direction of Henry Kissinger in the 1970s, and subsequent mass genocide under the Khmer Rouge for four years before Vietnam helped Cambodian patriots to recover the nation in 1979, has slowly returned to stability, and steady, if slow, development under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Wolfowitz, like many of his neo-conservative compatriots, is still harboring rage over losing the Vietnam War. According to John Cassidy in a *New Yorker* article of April 9, Wolfowitz remarked, in one of his first Board meetings, "Why are we lending to Cambodia? It's such a corrupt country." By the Summer of 2006, Wolfowitz had cut off critical funds for the struggling nation despite efforts by the staff and the executives responsible for the region, both at the Bank and at the IMF, who knew the importance of the cancelled projects.

At that point, some of the executives took action, contacting the Board members from around the world, calling for united action against the destructive and potentially deadly policies which Wolfowitz was imposing unilaterally. With several other nations being subjected to the same treatment, these executives found considerable support for their demand.

On Sept. 13, 2006, six days before the annual meeting of the World Bank in Singapore, British Minister of State for International Development Hilary Benn declared that Britain was withholding a £50 million payment to the Bank, to protest the conditionalities the Bank was putting on its aid—a reference to Wolfowitz's arbitrary cutoffs of funds under the guise of fighting corruption. By March 2007, the Bank's Board had become so incensed that it forced a change in the rules to make it impossible for Wolfowitz to cut aid without the Board's approval.

The Surging Opposition

Benn's actions point to the fact that the major impetus behind the campaign to dump Wolfowitz is coming from the British. Lyndon LaRouche has suggested that this is part of a general move by some in the United Kingdom over recent weeks, who have decided that they cannot accept the war on Iran being planned by President Bush and Vice President Cheney, which is driving the world towards a new world war. It was certainly not lost on the British and others that the job Wolfowitz arranged for his girlfriend was under the direction of Liz Cheney, the Vice President's daughter, who is herself deeply involved in the drive to provoke a new war in Southwest Asia (see http://www.larouchepac.com/pages/breaking_news/2007/0412_liz_prt.html, "All in the Family: Liz Cheney Demands Regime Change in Damascus").

The London *Financial Times* began the recent campaign

against Wolfowitz by leaking reports about the "girlfriend" scandal. On April 13, the *Times*, the voice for a City of London faction, ran a lead editorial titled, "Wolfowitz must be told to resign now." Along with it, the paper published a letter to the editor from Gautam Kaji, an Indian who had served as managing director of operations under former Bank president James Wolfensohn, entitled "Quit or be fired: that should be Wolfowitz's choice."

Benn again spoke out, at the April 14-16 meeting of the World Bank/IMF, saying that, "This whole business has damaged the Bank and should not have happened. . . . I am sure these views will be shared by other governors [of the Bank] who will also be considering their responses."

Indeed, Reuters reported that French Finance Minister Thierry Breton said April 13 that the World Bank is "an institution whose governance and ethics must obviously be impeccable." Germany's Development Minister Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul told Reuters that Wolfowitz "himself has to decide whether he still has the credibility to represent the position of the World Bank." Brazilian Finance Minister Guido Mantega added, "We'll have to see if Wolfowitz will be able to retain the moral authority necessary to fulfill his duties."

Nor did the attacks end there. On April 16, the lead *New York Times* editorial, entitled, "Time for Mr. Wolfowitz To Go," concluded that, "there is no way Mr. Wolfowitz can recover his credibility and continue to be effective at the bank." The Development Committee at the Bank issued a sharp rebuke to Wolfowitz, which, although it stopped short of calling for his resignation and firing, conveyed an unmistakable message to that effect.

Meanwhile, over the weekend of April 21-22, Wolfowitz was still refusing to resign, leaving it to the Bank's board to take action, if they wish to remove him. He is determined to stay, despite the mounting clamor for his resignation from within the Bank itself. According to the *Financial Times* of April 19, the bank managers from Latin America have threatened to resign en masse if Wolfowitz stays. Asian managers also generally agree that Wolfowitz should resign, although at least some of the African and Middle Eastern managers, mostly hired by Wolfowitz, are supporting him.

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German Press Slams Brit Lies on LaRouche

Two metropolitan newspapers in Wiesbaden, Germany, headquarters of the LaRouche movement in Europe, have strongly denounced the ongoing efforts of a London-based Blair-Cheney media nexus to spread repeatedly disproven slanders against the LaRouche movement and the German judicial system. The articles and commentaries come in the wake of *EIR*'s recent exposé of the oligarchical networks behind the slander machine.

The *Wiesbadener Kurier* and the *Wiesbadener Tagblatt* each carried pieces April 19, citing the Wiesbaden State Attorney's office, again refuting the slanders around the March 2003 suicide of an unstable British student, who had attended a LaRouche Youth Movement conference in Wiesbaden. The *Kurier*'s article is headlined, "Only the Legend Has a Long Life; Four Years after the Suicide of Jeremiah Duggan, the Murder Conspiracy Is Finding New Supporters, But No Evidence." While author Wolfgang Degen seems to have no affection for the LaRouche movement, he has no stomach for venal slander against the German judiciary either. "Four years after the suicide—determined beyond any doubt—of Briton Jeremiah Duggan, legends are still being cultivated. A murder version is still circulating. British media, primarily, are making accusations against the German State Attorney." A tough commentary by the author and excerpts from a chronology accompany the article. The latter mentions Sarah Lundford, a British Member of the European Parliament, who brought the case there in April 2005, and attended a March 2007 London press conference.

'What They Fail To Mention . . .'

Writing in the *Tagblatt*, the same author notes: "What they fail to mention is that the highest tribunal of [the state of] Hesse, the Oberlandesgericht, is in agreement with the State Attorney. Yet this only brings the judge under suspicion, that he and the State Attorney are running a cover-up. Hence, a gigantic conspiracy of Hesse jurists to cover up the truth? Absurd! To bolster this, some pains were taken to bring in a number of stereotypes: On the one side, you have a fun-loving, good English boy of Jewish faith, now dead; on the other side, the Office of the State Attorney, German, bull-headed and evil. Evil, because incompetent and unwilling. . . . You can't get any dumber than that.

"Nothing about these 'truths' has justified any serious

doubts about the traffic suicide. Since the legal authorities do not see anything corresponding to the wishes of the 'clear-things-up' group, they will have to be softened up by political pressure from England. A cheap attempt to bend the law."

Hartmut Ferse, spokesman for the State Attorney's office, refuses to comment on the new efforts by the British Parliament to put political pressure on Germany. "Why should I?" he asks. The State Attorney's office has done its duty by the investigation. It has made the point again and again, that there is nothing which would justify reopening the case.

The 'Hogg' Pen

As Anton Chaitkin reported in the April 20 issue of *EIR*—"Blair War Clique Runs Anti-LaRouche Slander Drive"—it is a small, but well-placed group that is circulating the Duggan slander against LaRouche's movement:

- "The London crisis-management firm **Luther Pendragon**, a private arm of the Blair regime, which managed publication of a key 2004 report demanding BBC be dismantled. Luther Pendragon now officially manages public affairs for the Duggan slander campaign.

- "Rightist media executive **David Elstein**, the author of that 2004 anti-BBC report. David Elstein is now chairman of the firm, Luther Pendragon, running the Duggan slander.

- "**Lady Sarah Hogg**, the Blair ringleader on the BBC Board of Governors. Lady Hogg is David Elstein's financier, and the financial power looming behind the latest Duggan slander spread inside Germany.

- "**Greg Dyke**, BBC Director General forced out in the 2004 terror. Dyke publicly identified Lady Hogg and her little gang in the Blair coup at BBC.

- "**Philip Bassett** and **Baroness Elizabeth Symons**, husband and wife. Philip Bassett was co-manager of the Blair propaganda team that "sexed up" the Iraq WMD dossier. Baroness Symons was the Blair regime's military procurement chief, tied in with Mr. and Mrs. Dick Cheney and with Lady Hogg's little gang, in the Iraq War. She has been the highest-ranking Blair-regime official personally directing the Duggan slander campaign against LaRouche."

(Chaitkin's full article is available online at www.larouchepac.com.)

The long-running Duggan slander got its first play in the London *Guardian* July 12, 2003, after being cooked up that Spring. When BBC reported how this same group concocted the Iraqi weapons-of-mass-destruction hoax, the clique went ballistic. In the course of its coverage, BBC twice aired interviews with Lyndon LaRouche, exposing the Blair-Cheney lying drive for war. Within months, BBC was tamed, its leadership that had collaborated with LaRouche was sent packing, and the Duggan slander was launched. The lie has been shown yet again to be woven from used British cloth.

Ségolène Royal: Our Vote for Reason

by Jacques Cheminade

Slightly more than a week before the first round of the French Presidential elections, on April 22, former French Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade issued a statement explaining his qualified endorsement of Ségolène Royal, the Socialist Party candidate. The National Assembly elections take place on June 10 and 17.

Let's be honest.

Our first impulse in the first round of the Presidential elections in France would lead us either not to vote or to cast a blank ballot. Indeed, before an endeavor reduced to the level of a mere contest among proposals lacking coherence, occurring as if France existed outside the world while we are entering a tragic period of universal history, one feels in the depths of one's being that to take part in this derisory farce would only be degrading.

However, courage and reason, in politics as in every social relation among fellow human beings, demand that, in overcoming the temptation of dogmatic purity, one rise above that first impulse. In order to do that, we must envisage the worse. Three disastrous things—all different versions of Blairism in a French sauce—emerge before our eyes. The first would be that Nicolas Sarkozy is elected. The second, that one had the choice in the second round between the financial Bonapartism of Nicolas Sarkozy and the monetary ecologism of François Bayrou. The third, less likely but possible, were the emergence of a backwards red-green-center coalition.

Under those conditions, it seems that what we must reject is a triple offensive against the political, social, and economic distinction that France can still offer to the world, provided that some live up to the challenges of the moment.

The only solution is to work to inspire people to rise to the occasion, although not necessarily hoping for anything from the forces present.

Whether one likes it or not, that potential for change exists in the youth on the one hand, and in a large section of the constituency of Ségolène Royal.

Our priority will be thus to grab the youth away from a society which steals and cheats them, not only taking away all their resources for the future, but above all in promoting, via an unprecedented and unlimited ideological manipulation, the destruction of the “sensuous” and dismantling of life.

Our youth movement is, in view of this mission, engaged in an adventure aimed at reestablishing the “sensuous” in the sources of knowledge in order to return sense to the political common good.

Our priority is therefore to make this essential adventure possible, through to completion; that is, that it not be destroyed by those whom it fights. We aim at nothing less than the creation of a future generation of leaders/inspirers to take in their hands the course of a history that the Baby Boomers, the 68ers, abandoned to the stock markets and to bestiality of social relations.

It is here that the importance of Ségolène Royal's constituency lies—and also the best of her which is her “nasty” character—as a possible shield, while the others would be a weapon directed against us.

It is therefore necessary that she be present in the second round, and eventually elected against Nicolas Sarkozy or François Bayrou. Not for the content of her program, which is practically as disastrous as the others, but for the potential which her constituency represents, if it be challenged by an inspiring youth movement.

No Illusions

Without illusions of any sort, especially not with respect to the stables of Socialist elephants, I will personally vote for Ségolène Royal in the first and second round of the Presidential elections, while understanding that those, less attached than I to the spirit of youth, will either not go to vote on Sunday, or will cast blank ballots.

The French political class must be renovated top-down. The world must return to our political stage, because France would exist no longer if it lost its universal orientation. This leads it to be a catalyst, an instrument in the symphony of a new international economic order which the United States, delivered from Bush's dictatorship, from Cheney, and from the financial fascism which promote them; along with China, India, and Russia, will constitute, in rediscovering their true independence, without whose pillars the edifice of the future cannot be constructed.

To those who will protest about the candidate and her “program,” I respond: Imagine for one second the danger the rest represent. And especially, do not despair of the strength of our forces, even if our means seem laughable. The project of my Presidential campaign is, with the recent writings of Lyndon LaRouche, a reference point for the future, so that we can participate again in world history where it occurs and that we may clean out our Augean stables.

The struggle we are pursuing in the world, with our youth movement, is the reason for our choice. With Ségolène Royal and within her constituency, we have a tough fight to lead, terrible prejudices to fight, principles to reestablish, a policy to found anew, so that our youth movement can continue to act. Otherwise our destiny would be sealed.

‘Ask the Man Who Owns One’

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The LaRouche Political Action Committee issued this release on April 20, 2007.

Put the roster of declared 2008 Republican U.S. Presidential pre-candidates to one side for the moment. What about the presently leading Democratic Party contenders? Put the whimpers of the perennial bitch-goddess, popularity, to one side; public opinion has often been wrong, sometimes as badly mistaken as it has been, habitually, since the almost suicidal public selection of 2000. This time, none, among all of the presently leading candidates, is presently actually qualified, by both motive and wisdom, as Franklin D. Roosevelt was, to serve during the 2009-2013 terms. We must select and develop a suitable pre-candidate, who must undergo the necessary development and guidance.

Who owns the candidate to be chosen? What is inside the package, waiting to pop out, were that candidate to enter the White House?

What is the possibility that, under present conditions, the electorate could put aside its customary small-mindedness and related prejudices, and, thus, become competent to make the right choice, hopefully a choice of a candidate with the spirit of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt, all that in the patriotic tradition of 1776-1789?

* * *

The first question a wise citizen would ask about any present pre-candidate, is an echo of the advertising slogan of the Packard motor car company of the 1930s: “Ask the man who owns one.”

Let us put the roster of declared and otherwise likely Republican pre-candidates to one side for a suitable later occasion. Let us concentrate, for the moment, on the exemplary

cases of the two ostensibly, currently leading Democratic pre-candidates: Senators Clinton and Obama.

Frankly, at the present moment, none of the listed Democratic pre-candidates would actually be competent to serve as President under those historically critical conditions with which the next U.S. President will be confronted. I can say with certainty, that none of them, so far, has given the public the slightest inkling of the onrushing actual situation which the next President of the U.S.A. will face.

I am the best qualified potential candidate on these counts, whether you like that idea, or not; but, given my present age, eighty-four, the likelihood of my living out the full skein of the years 2009-2017 in the prime condition we should require in that office, is a wee bit uncertain. Clearly, the national interest demands that we develop someone who is no ordinary Presidential nominee, but an unusual candidate, like me, who is qualified to become a fair approximation of a President Franklin Roosevelt; otherwise, our republic has a very poor chance of surviving in a manner which conforms to its present Constitution.

Therefore, to start with, we must start our probe of any pre-candidate’s potential qualifications with the famous slogan of the 1930s advertising slogan of the Packard motor car company: “Ask the man who owns one.” Ask the financial backer of each candidate: “Who really owns him?” “What is the interest which has built him up, groomed him, and brought him to market?”

On this account, already, we can be reasonably confident that we know who, apart from her obvious personal ambition, “owns” Senator Clinton. We have seen some of the packaging of Senator Obama’s campaign; but, I have not seen enough of what might actually be inside the package to calm my fears for our nation; certain uncertainties arising from his Chicago

packaging worry me very much, as it should you. Are these certain financier interests, such as those centered in Chicago, which are more likely to care for the same hedge-fund-connected financier interests which are ruining the increasingly looted lives of the majority of our population today? I hear nothing so far to ease my worries on that account. Do not just look into the candidate's eyes; look under the hood.

It is already April 2007: Within about nine months, some crucial steps toward choices of Party candidates for the general election will be made. Unless the selected candidates present an image of their intentions which goes far beyond anything the press or public has seen from the candidates so far, nothing less than the very future existence of our nation is in jeopardy, if the visible candidates are actually nothing more than the shallow display of cosmetics which is what they present themselves to be, as of now.

Sometimes, the important fact about a candidate is what he is; at other times, the most important question is what he is not.

I have some recent experience with this problem now immediately threatening virtually all of our people, and the very existence of our constitutional republic, as well. From late November 2004, until the close of 2005, I was an integral part of the Democratic Party's effort to defend the U.S. Social Security system from wild-eyed looting by our goofy, incumbent, Cheney-controlled U.S. President of that time.

However, those same Democrats who fought to save Social Security then, stubbornly refused to take any of the urgently needed measures required to save the productive potential and employment of our already gravely endangered auto industry. We now see the result of that negligence by the U.S. Congress, especially in the states of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, today.

The reason for this terrible negligence by members of the Congress, was, typically, the influence of certain predatory international financier circles, as typified by the so-called "Middlebury Monster," Felix Rohatyn, who had played a key role in the efforts of George Shultz and Henry A. Kissinger, not only, to bring an old-Nazi-linked Pinochet into power in a mass-murderous fascist dictatorship in Chile, but to continue that with a Nazi-like wave of mass murders and kindred enterprises throughout the "Southern Cone" of South America.

Today, a similar threat is represented by the influence of a man who is in fact a British agent, former Vice-President Al Gore, to push through a swindle called "Global Warming," which is a copy of the same policy, then named "eugenics," of certain leading U.S.A. and British financial interests, the policy which was used, by them, to create the Nazi Party and the regime of Adolf Hitler, in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Among the open backers of Adolf Hitler back then, was Prescott Bush, the grandfather of the current President of the U.S.A., who wrote the order, on behalf of Averell Harriman,

for transfer of funds needed to save Hitler's Nazi Party from bankruptcy, that just in time for the appointment of Hitler as Germany's Chancellor. The green "environmentalist" policy on which the Nazi Party of the 1920s and early 1930s was based then, represents, today, exactly the same eugenics policy today, the post-1945 policy of Julian Huxley et al., pushed by the Nazis and the relevant Anglo-Dutch and Wall Street financier interests then.

If anything, the "green" policy of Gore et al. today, is far more radical, more extremely genocidal, than anything the Anglo-American and other financier backers of Hitler had proposed back during the 1920s and 1930s.

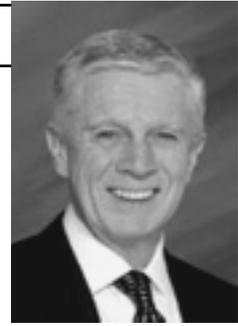
As recently as the 1970s and 1980s, it would have been impossible to elect any U.S. Presidential candidate who ran on what is represented as the "Global Warming" hoax of British agent Al Gore today. Admittedly, the "Green" disease was already rampant among the "anti-blue collar" "68ers" during the 1970s; but, then, the representatives of my generation were in top-most positions of political power. Those who remembered what "eugenicist" Adolf Hitler really was, would, therefore, never have tolerated the "green" Baby-Boomer policies which have sucked in so many from among Al Gore's generation today. The Green policies of Hitler's movement and its Anglo-Dutch Liberal and U.S. backers of the past, had to wait until most of the veterans of World War II had died out to push the policies which Al Gore and his backers typify today.

The current policy of the Anglo-American and related interests associated with British agent Gore's global swindle today, is the elimination of the sovereignty of all nations of the planet, that, under a doctrine calling for a new, global, "Tower of Babel," called "globalization." Under the impulse of the same policy, that by the present Bush-Cheney Administration, the world is presently teetering at the brink of not only a potential Iran war, but the near-term further danger of a new form of major, thermonuclear world war already being built up for action against Russia, China, and India.

All of these and other problems, are situated within the context of a presently onrushing general economic breakdown-crisis of the planet as a whole. The driver behind all of these approximately immediate dangers to life on our planet as a whole, is the continuation of the financial-economic policies associated presently with the predatory role of a global "hedge-fund" swindle centered, chiefly, in the British monarchy's Cayman Islands. Therefore, which financier interests actually control which Presidential and other candidates, is the most fundamental, existential question facing any intelligent U.S. voter today.

That is why I have a certain set of questions to present to candidate and Senator Obama.

That is the opening portion of a longer report which I shall be issuing during the coming weeks. I have much more to say as I add to what is already presented here, during the coming days and beyond.



‘We Should Be Willing To Talk To Syria and Iran’

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Joseph P. Hoar (ret.), a four-star general, was Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command (1991-94), commanding the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf after the 1991 war. He also served in the Vietnam War, as a battalion and brigade advisor with the Vietnamese Marines. General Hoar spoke with EIR on April 17, 2007.

EIR: Please give your assessment of the danger of a war between the United States and Iran.

Hoar: I think a couple of things. All of the business with Patriot batteries already in place out there, the two carrier battle groups being in the Gulf, which is a huge step up when you’re not in combat operations, just because of the very nature of the crowding and so forth—the numbers of ships that are going back and forth—commercial ships alone.

There’s another issue with this, which is that another carrier has left from the West Coast. Within a few weeks, it’ll be out in the Gulf to replace one of the two that is there. The question is, do you keep another carrier on station? Is this carrier going to become part of the surge? And if you do, that further complicates the numbers of ships floating around, because there’ll be a carrier and four or five other ships in the battle group.

But then comes the other question. In the ’90-’91 war, President Bush, the senior, is reputed to have said, in response to the Joint Chiefs, who were saying in October, “Well, we need to have a rotation policy. We propose not to leave a quarter of a million guys who are out there, indefinitely, and so we want to think about a six-month rotation policy,” “You mean you’ve got another quarter of a million people out there, that could go?” And I guess Colin Powell said “yes,” and the President’s response was, “Send them.”

What that did, was to put in motion the activities that brought the numbers up to over a half a million, the last of which were arriving just days before the air war began. And so, these kinds of decisions about moving large forces, have another impact: creating momentum. There was no way that, when the President said, “Send them,” and the total number was going to be over a half-a-million—you couldn’t do anything, but either have Saddam Hussein withdraw from Kuwait, or go to war. Those were the only two choices.

And it seems to me, that if you have a third carrier battle

group going into the Gulf, if you’re the Vice President, if you’re the President, the turnover gives you a 50% increase in capability. So, what’s going to happen? Are we going to keep two carriers there forever, and swap out one? Are we going to wait until we get a fourth carrier out there, and swap out two? In the meantime, are we going to leave the Western Pacific uncovered without a carrier battle group? If there’s no progress, how do you stop sending the core message?

You know, we send two carrier groups to “send a message.” I’ve always thought the U.S. Postal Service was the way to send messages, but the government, both sides of the aisle, likes to send messages with carrier battle groups. The question is: Assuming no movement on the part of Iran, with respect to the nuclear program, and related stuff—which I suspect is about 90% what’s going to happen—what does the U.S. government do? Do they say, “Well, it’s not as important now as it was two months ago, or three months, and reduce the numbers of ships that are out there?”

These are decisions that oftentimes aren’t thought through very carefully. And I think that, as we get a little bit further down the road, there will be an issue of momentum, and consistency: How do we go forward? If we have to put a carrier back in the Pacific, do we just go back? “We sent the message, the message has been received, and nothing’s happened.” And then we’re back to business as usual?

I think it’s an interesting possibility, that just the very nature of this thing causes the government to try and figure out a good answer, after nothing happens. The message is received, but nothing changes. And what are next steps then?

EIR: What about diplomacy as a means of settling the so-called Iran crisis without resorting to military force?

Hoar: I think the handling of the British sailors and marines is very illustrative of this issue. I don’t know the whole story, but I just read here, within the last day or so, that the Russians played a role. It seems to me, that what the Iranians were saying, was “You can’t pressure us.” If the Prime Minister stands up on Downing Street and says ominously, something’s going to happen, and then people start talking back channel, all of a sudden, things start to happen.

I have thought, right from the start, that the United States, and only the United States can solve the problem, because

we're really the only ones that have all the cards. Spending four or five years with the Brits, the French, and the Germans acting on our behalf, makes no sense. Because the issue has to do with recognition. It has to do with the history going back to the early '50s. It has to do with embargoed money. If we were willing to have a blank sheet of paper discussion with the Iranians, perhaps with nobody else present, I think all kinds of things are possible.

With the movie *300*, that has just come out, and all the talk about the importance of the Battle of Thermopylae, and the great heroism and so forth, we're reminded that it was really the naval battle of Salamis that turned back the Persians, and if they had not been turned back in the Fifth Century B.C., I think that at least Eastern Europe would be speaking Farsi today.

Somebody needs, once in a while, to acknowledge the history of that country, and that they were a world power at one time, and it's important to them. In my relationship with the Egyptians, I see in their art work, and in their discussions, that they like to point out that the rest of us were living in caves when they had a very highly developed society. And so, I think that if we're not willing to give them some acknowledgement of their past, to acknowledge that Iran got caught up in the great game between us and the Soviet Union in the 1950s, that perhaps supporting the Shah wasn't the smartest thing to do, after that, I think a lot of things are possible.

The extraordinary thing is, we have so many good people that could carry this off. We have a country with extraordinarily good diplomats, and political people, that have had good experience. Governor [Bill] Richardson in New Mexico is one of many. On the other side of the aisle, there's Jim Baker. There's George Mitchell. How many of those guys would be willing to grab hold of this current problem, is another question, but the point is, we have loads of people that have done this kind of work, and done it very successfully.

EIR: Do you see any chance the Administration might take that advice?

Hoar: I don't think the Vice President would be open. I'm reading just from open press. I'm a little bit closer to the issue with Syria. I think it's extraordinary, that now we're hearing that the Israelis are talking with the Syrians, but that they don't want us to know, because we don't want them to talk to the Syrians. . . .

If ever there was a wake-up call for the Israelis, it was what happened this past Summer. It just doesn't do any good to maintain this idea that we're going to be tough, that we're going to teach them a lesson, and we're going to punish them. We could all learn from the fact that that has not worked, and it might be time to try something new.

EIR: How do you respond to Mr. [Lyndon] LaRouche's idea that the United States should ally with the three other great powers of the world today, Russia, China, and India, to solve

these pressing crises?

Hoar: Well, I think almost anything is possible if you have strong leadership that's willing to sit down, and talk, and hammer out a plan for the future.

One caution that I would give you, is that if you're serious about this war of ideas, which some call the "war on terror," we're not helping our efforts at all by opening up our relationships with India. If [Pakistani President Pervez] Musharraf is important to our efforts in South Asia, as I believe he is, and if Pakistan, regardless of what you think about past efforts, is important to us, we need to rethink, at least for the short term, our relationship with India.

India is in Afghanistan, and is driving the Pakistanis crazy. And when we decide that we're going to have this new relationship, through a nuclear program, with India, we just pulled the rug out from under Musharraf. The business community is just salivating at the possibility that we could find economic activity with India. And I'm sure we can.

But the point is, what's important right now? If something happens to Musharraf, if that government falls—it's flawed, as it is—our ability to make things happen in tribal areas and so forth, next to Afghanistan, and our long-term success in Afghanistan, are going to be significantly impaired. Is Musharraf playing both sides against the middle? Of course he is. But Pakistan institutionally has been burned so many times after they have reached out to us, to be our friend, going back to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, all the way up to ejecting the Soviet Union from Afghanistan and so forth, that they don't trust us. And they have every reason not to trust us. The relationship with Pakistan in the past has been: What can you do for me today? And after whatever it is I'm looking for today, we start all over again with a clean sheet.

I am 100% in favor of the great powers trying to come to some agreements on these issues. I think China's penetration into Sub-Saharan Africa is, in the long term, very damaging to us. This is not new. In the '60s, the Chinese were there in force. The difference was, because the Chinese had no money, they were still dependent on the Soviet Union for logistics support, and so forth. While in many ways they were not liked by the Africans, because of their ethno-centrism, the no-strings-attached money, the economic aid, sweetheart deals—all of those things are very popular with the leadership in some of the Sub-Saharan African countries.

I think that China and Russia now are very wealthy, for all the reasons we both know. Look at the difference in what's happened with Russia since the price of oil has boomed. They were falling apart there, in the late '90s, when oil was down to \$8 to \$10 a barrel. China holds all our money, so they can do virtually anything they want.

I think that, the new [U.S.] President ought to think through an effort to draw in the major powers, and see what could be done, economically; and then the obvious corollary of that, would be to use the combined might of these countries, which is extraordinarily powerful, to see if some political

breakthrough couldn't be possible, as well.

EIR: How do you react to the efforts by the Congressional Democratic leadership to force a date-certain withdrawal of most American forces from Iraq?

Hoar: There's nobody that I have talked to on the military side, in off-the-record meetings, who has said anything other than, there is no military solution to the Iraqi problem. Service chiefs are saying the same thing. What happens in public is, that the senior leadership in this country, seems to be either tone-deaf on this issue, or it is too complicated for them to get their arms around.

I read just this week, that the Iraqi government had once again prohibited former Ba'athists to enter into the government. These are the kinds of things that should be raising red flags all the way around. If you want to start to reduce the power of the Sunni insurgents in Iraq, one of the things that ought to happen, is that you acknowledge that former capable people, who were in the former government, have an opportunity to participate in the political process going forward. All this prohibition does is convince the Sunnis that they're going to be excluded from any meaningful positions within the government, in the army, the police, wherever. These are the kinds of decisions that prolong this insurgency.

The more troops you put out there, the more people get killed.

EIR: Please comment further on the timetable issue.

Hoar: I spent a fair amount of time thinking and working and being involved in counterinsurgency efforts over the years. Obviously I took part in a pretty major counterinsurgency effort in the '60s and '70s. In addition to that, I've taught this at the Command Staff College, I had responsibilities for this in Washington, and having spent most of my military time in the Third World, I have some sensitivity to these issues.

The first thing is, that the insurgents are always on the strategic defensive. In other words, time is on their side. If you don't become decisively engaged over time, the government you're trying to overthrow is going to find that they can't continue with the effort at the level that they have been devoting to the insurgency, and change comes to pass. And all of the great rebel leaders, from George Washington to Ho Chi Minh, knew this. That you win by not losing. You know, George Washington had a stunning victory at Saratoga, because the British screwed it up, but it was sufficient to cause the French to say, the outcome of this war in North America is not preordained; we should help the rebels. And so, with the exception of Saratoga, Washington never won a significant battle, until, of course, the Brits collapsed at Yorktown.

And my friends who served in Vietnam would tell you, we could have won; every time we engaged, we won the battle. Perhaps the best example in recent times is the Algerian go-around. It took a general who happened to be a President, to realize that even if you killed a million Algerians, even if

you had 50,000 Algerians under your pay acting as intelligence operatives, even if you knew what was going on, even if you could go to the heart of the terrorist movement, at the end of the day, it wasn't going to make any difference. Because if you don't treat root causes, you don't change the equation. You don't bring a good ending to the fight.

And we are certainly not going for root causes. We are not truly committed to making the political changes that might have an effect on the security system, that would allow the reduction of troops. And as a result, I hope I'm wrong, but I think the big surge is doomed to fail, because there isn't the effort to make the changes, both politically and economically, that are required to change the mindset of the insurgents—on both sides.

EIR: You have undoubtedly followed the recent efforts of some at the White House to find a retired three or four star general who might be willing to serve as the so-called "War Czar." What is your evaluation of this effort?

Hoar: Well, I think it's more specific than that. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is the advisor to the Secretary of Defense—he's not in the chain of command, and he is also the advisor to the President. That's in the law. He is the only one that has direct access to the President. He can go see the President any time he wants, and obviously he'd need to tell the Secretary of Defense that was his plan, and not have the Secretary of Defense blind-sided. But I think two things.

First of all, I think [Marine Corps Gen.] Jack Sheehan's op-ed piece [*Washington Post* April 14] was great. As you know, he was initially on whatever that thing was that Richard Perle had adopted, at the beginning of the Bush Administration [Defense Policy Board—ed.] He left it pretty early on. And I think it was because of his dismay at what was being discussed. You'd have to ask him, but I'm sure of that.

However, the point is that, the "Czar" has been this woman Megan O'Sullivan. I can understand how you would want to have somebody with military experience giving Steve Hadley a hand over there. I don't see anything wrong with that. But you get the feeling that it's really not that; that you're going to have a Four-Star on the NSC [National Security Council] staff; who's he going to talk to? Well, we know from the way NSC works under the current crowd: anybody he wants to.

Is he going to then talk to service chiefs, combatant commanders? My guess is he would. And I think if I were the Chairman, I'd have some questions about that. But I'd be very surprised if you could find a senior military officer today that would be willing to pick up those kinds of responsibilities.

If someone were being interviewed for a job, I'd suggest to him to find out the conceptual framework of his boss. Because one of the great problems that we have today, is, you've got military officers who disagree with the political leaders; their job is not to make policy, it's to execute policy, to use Newt Gingrich's term. And if you disagree with the way our



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"I don't think the civilian leadership has any concept of the sacrifices that these families make," said General Hoar. Families never know if, or when, their loved ones are coming home, and that, among other aspects of the current war deployment, is tearing the military, and the society, apart. Here, a soldier returns after a tour in Iraq.

political leaders are running the country, you have two choices: suck it up and do what you're told to do, or speak up and get yourself in trouble with your boss and everybody else. Or pack it in, and go home. If you were being considered for high office, it probably wouldn't hurt to try to find out what your boss is going to do, before you take the job on.

EIR: Recently, Gen. Barry McCaffrey (USA-ret.) submitted a memo to West Point, reporting on his recent visit to Iraq. He warned that the U.S. military, particularly the Army and the Marine Corps, are near a break point. Do you agree? Can you elaborate?

Hoar: There are a couple of issues here. First of all, the Army and the Marine Corps are running a much different rotation arrangement, but at the end of the day, it works out about the same. As you know, the Marines are going out for 7 months at a time, which means that they go for a shorter period, but they go back more frequently. The Army term has been a year; now it looks like it's going to be 15 months.

There are two issues. One is the readiness issue. If you speed up the time when the troops are back in the States—let's say, a year in Iraq, and then home for a year—well, what home means is that you go back and you probably get an opportunity to take three weeks off. Just stand down, particularly if you're a youngster; go back to your home town, visit your parents, hang out and so forth. Then all of a sudden, you are right back into this extraordinary build-up again, because something like 20 to 40% of the people in your organization, have transferred out. They're either finished their enlistment, or it's their turn to go to school, or maybe they've been in that

battalion for three years, and it's time for them to do something else. They've been promoted out of the jobs that they have. So there's a huge turnover.

So, the training cycle begins anew, right down to squad level, where individual soldiers start a very aggressive program to go through individual skills, working together, squad tactics, defense, offense, scouting, and patrolling, defense against IEDs, on and on and on. Then it works up to platoon level, and to company level, and now you're into a couple of months of training. Battalion level, brigade level, exercises, going out to the national training center, go to 29 Palms, go to the big base down in Louisiana—all of these kinds of things—and as you get closer and closer to deployment, the training tempo increases.

What the senior people in the Army and the Marine Corps are saying is, there's no longer any time to practice for the possibility that you might have

to serve in Korea, or to go someplace else, and fight a conventional war, because once you get your battalion and brigade organized, you're not talking about the ability to fight as a large military organization, in a combined arms war, with artillery and air, and all of the other things, maneuvering against North Vietnamese conventional forces. You're now in simulations in which Arabic-speaking people are acting in a simulated village about how you learn how to search people, how to run checkpoints, how to conduct sweeps, blah, blah.

This is the long way around to saying, the time at home is in many ways, as you get closer to deployment, more and more difficult; because if you're a young officer, or a young NCO, you're probably working 60-70 hours a week, and there's very little time for family, for other things.

The time at home is very tough. Time with families is diminished. If you're a bachelor, and you go to war for a year, and then you could go home and train for a year before going back to war again, think what kind of a love life you might have, in the midst of all of that. Who in their right mind is going to think about going out on Saturday night with a guy like that?

And so, it's tough on them personally, and what Barry McCaffrey, I think, is concerned about, is that they're not training to do all the things that infantry, and armor units, are supposed to do.

Artillery units, for example, practice little at firing their artillery pieces, because so little of that is used in the counter-insurgency program; so most of these artillery units are doing security-type duties. The artillery units have all kinds of mode of transport trucks; they're doing convoys; they're doing a

whole bunch of things, other than what they're supposed to be doing.

Similarly, while the tank, the armored forces, are very much engaged, they're not engaged in the things that armored forces were designed to do, which is to provide shock, mobility, and firepower, and be able to maneuver against a conventional army force, which they don't do when they're getting ready to do a counterinsurgency operation.

So, that's one aspect of it.

The other aspect of it is, that these units, which, in training—let's say that the average tank in the U.S. Army or the Marine Corps, in training is held to about 800 miles a year worth of training. You're going to take a tank out of the tank park and take it out to a training area. You put it on a heavy hauler, as you would see with a great huge bulldozer, drag it out to where it's going to train. Then it trains, and they put it back on one of these things that's called a HET (heavy equipment trailer), and they take it back to base. And so, instead of 800 miles a year, these tanks are doing several thousand miles a year, and the cost in terms of maintenance, and in the reduced lifespan of these vehicles, is staggering. There is a bill to pay, someplace down the road.

Barry McCaffrey is talking to an audience that understands these issues, so he hasn't enumerated them. The Army uses the term "reset the force." Reset the force means, take all this stuff that's just getting beaten up, after staying out there for years, and bring it home and rebuild it. And the costs associated with that: The last chief of staff of the Army refused, as you recall, to submit a budget, because he said, within the constraints that I have, I can't possibly do what I need to do, to make sure that the United States Army is ready to meet its responsibilities.

That's one piece.

The other piece is the impact on individual soldiers and Marines. During the Vietnam War, soldiers and Marines, people who were participating in ground combat, went out for 12 or 13 months—it started at 13 and then everybody uniformly was out there for 12 months. There was no unit rotation. People were just fed into the units on a regular basis, throughout the year.

While, from an operational point of view, that was not nearly as good as the unit rotations that we're in right now, it guaranteed that people only did 12 months. At the end of 12 months, to the day, you were out of there, and flying home.

The Navy, on the other hand, always rotates as a unit. If a ship goes out for a full deployment, everybody that's on that ship has enough time to remain on that ship until it comes home. [They] started out with normal six-month deployments, and in fact, sometimes did seven, sometimes did eight, sometimes did 11 months. What this did, over a period of years, is, it just destroyed the career force in the Navy. People were just fed up. They had no life of their own. You know, you missed the birth of your children. You missed your planned marriage date. You missed your parents' 25th wedding anni-

versary. All of the kinds of things that are important to individuals, were completely screwed up.

So, after the Vietnam war, the Navy instituted a policy called, "6 Months Portal to Portal." In other words, if a ship left San Diego to go to the Western Pacific, on that date, six months hence, it was going to be back in San Diego. You could plan to get married, a week after your return date. You would be able to say to your parents, if you're going to have your 25th wedding anniversary, maybe you could slip it a few days. I'll be here for sure.

All of this has gone down the drain. And, you know, it isn't just the youngsters, the young men and women that are out there fighting the war. It's the impact that it has on families. Pretty soon, people say, I can't keep doing this. I can't keep telling my wife that such-and-such is so, and then that keeps changing. I can't tell my kids that I'm going to see them in April, and April turns into July or August, and I'm not going to be home for their Summer vacation.

I've not seen anything on the Marine Corps, so I can't say for sure, but with respect to the Army—you see this discussion about people being promoted quickly. That the last promotion board, from captain to major, had something like an 85% promotion opportunity, when in normal times it's 70%. What this reflects is, that majors are leaving the Army, that you need more majors, and the way to get them, is to lower the standard, and promote more guys, and that by itself is pretty destructive. Of course, we've all read about the lowering of standards for people coming into service: lower education, more flexibility with respect to substance abuse, more flexibility with respect to criminal activity—criminal may be too strong a word, but basically getting in trouble with the law.

All of these things are what Barry McCaffrey is alluding to when he says, we can't keep doing what we're doing.

Beyond that, I don't think the civilian leadership has any concept of the sacrifices that these families make. We all have some sense of loss when somebody is killed or maimed. Just the day-to-day business, all that hangs over communities, the fear that their husbands or wives are going to be killed, or wounded. The problems of trying to raise kids as a single parent. You all know that's hard enough—that happens often enough in the society at large—but hanging over it, is this issue of life and death, every single day, and you know it's going to continue. You're going to go back, back, and back, and how a woman, or a man—but I think particularly for women, with kids, and so forth—how they deal with this, and do repetitively, knowing what the potential costs are every time their spouse goes out the door, to start another deployment, is just beyond me—I really mean that.

The other thing is, I think that the fact that we have, in my judgment, a very small chance of success—but I think by putting time limits on it, we almost ensure that the bad guys are just going to outlast us. And so, I'm not comfortable with doing this. My own view is that we needed the troops that are

embedded in our Iraqi forces; you need to get U.S. forces off the street. It's beyond belief for me to think that a couple, or four or five, young Americans are manning a checkpoint, and they don't speak the language, and they're not familiar with the culture.

I think that the American contribution would be to act as a quick reaction force, to help Iraqi units if they get in over their heads, but to keep Americans embedded in there, to give this thing an opportunity to succeed.

But if you had gone down that road, you wouldn't have needed a surge. On the contrary, you could have reduced the numbers of units that you had in Iraq, and to me that would have made a lot more sense. If you had a really political timetable of things that needed to be accomplished, and you could hold the Maliki government to it—that's where you needed a timetable, not on withdrawing the troops—then I think there would be some slight chance of success. But just thinking that more troops on the street, more Americans being in danger, for any length of time, without doing the developmental and political things, and holding that to a timetable, I don't think is workable.

EIR: Gen. [Anthony] Zinni appeared on "Meet the Press" last Sunday [April 15] and made some very similar comments.

Hoar: When you read Barry McCaffrey's note, you noted the numbers of troops that are in Kuwait. We've built an enormous base in Kuwait, that is capable of housing 10,000 Americans. Three-story barracks, mess halls, movie theaters, concessions—if your home base is Fort Bragg, North Carolina, you can order your brand new car while you're still in Kuwait, for delivery at Fort Bragg when you get back. We have the facilities right now to keep large numbers of Americans in the region, which would contribute to stability overall. They don't have to be on the streets in Baghdad—that's my concern, because I don't think we're accomplishing what we need to accomplish.

EIR: What about the efforts by some of the key regional actors in the Persian Gulf and Middle East, like Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, who has launched a number of peace initiatives?

Hoar: I would tell you that I know King Abdullah pretty well. When he was the Crown Prince, he was the senior official in Saudi Arabia that I met with routinely. He's an extraordinary person. As you know, he does not have the same affiliation with the Wahabis as his half-brothers. His mother was a Bedouin. His political base is with the Bedouin tribes, not with the Wahabis. If he lives long enough, he will make an extraordinary difference in Saudi Arabia.

I think the Arab League proposal, put together in 2002 in Beirut, flew by without anybody in this country paying any attention to it. [Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's response the next day after it was publicized, was to destroy Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

The point is, that most of us felt that, with respect to return of all Palestinians and '67 borders, that the proclamation was sufficiently general that there was room for discussion on both those issues. You'll recall that when Mr. [Yizhak] Rabin [Israeli Prime Minister, assassinated in 1995—ed.] was alive, there was the right of return on the table, which was going to be only emblematic of the fact that people had been forced out. And some number, not greater than 10,000, was what was being discussed, as I recall.

I think that King Abdullah has stepped up, which has been very uncharacteristic, for the Saudis. Abdullah, in every sense, has taken the lead on just the things that you've said. He is brokering a deal to give Hezbollah a couple more seats in the Parliament in Lebanon. You'll recall that when the West walked away from Lebanon in the '80s, it was the Saudis that brokered the deal that held pretty much in place, with the exception of [Rafik] Hariri's assassination, and those that followed thereafter, until the dust-up between Hezbollah and the Israelis last Summer.

I was out there in February and early March; I travelled to Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. The message was identical from every senior leadership: If the United States wants to make progress in the Middle East, the first thing is to start moving seriously on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The second issue is, talk to the Syrians, and the Iranians. The third issue is, give your first effort to the Syrians, because it's low-hanging fruit. You can separate them from the Iranians, and perhaps shut down Hezbollah, if you work with the Syrians.

You know, I've never seen anything like it. It was as if the Arabs agreed, the next time you see an American, these are the points you're going to make. That's not characteristic of Arabs.

There's a lot going on out there. And of course, we're all watching this Syrian thing, because of [House Speaker] Nancy Pelosi, and [Rep.] Daryl Issa, and assorted other people that are out there. Not to mention the Baker-Hamilton report, which suggested all of this made sense.

It's just so discouraging that we don't talk to Syria. That's in everybody's best interest, and to the credit of the Saudis, they realized that you could break the Syrians away from supporting Hezbollah.

EIR: There are other efforts under way to open the dialogue with Syria, including a recent visit by an American academic who is active in the Jewish peace movement, who met for several hours with President Assad.

Hoar: Right after 9/11, we had an informal deal with the Syrians, so we could take guys like that Canadian citizen and send him over there to get his fingernails torn out, on our behalf. But that relationship ended, when the Syrians said, we'd like to start the peace process again with a blank sheet of paper. And we told them, "no." That's what ended it. We turned the Syrians down, early on, when they wanted to start this discussion. What's wrong with that picture?

The Decline and Fall of Al Gore

by Leandra Bernstein, LaRouche Youth Movement

The recent push by the Fabian circles in Britain and the United States to use Al Gore to induce the United States to destroy itself, is presently amounting to a cumulative failure. This fact should be seen in light of the activities of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in exposing youth to the abortive attempts to recruit them as the political base to support green genocide. With further plans by the eco-fascists to discredit themselves with the release of the fourth IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report, the Baby-Boomer leaders among that faction are finding that the most significant political base, the youth, has been mobilized out from underneath them. As the LYM has proven, and as wise U.S. leaders will recognize, the youth have either flatly rejected the climate hoax, or they have a noncommittal belief in the pseudo-science, which they abandon very quickly when it is challenged. Now, the thinking Baby-Boomers in the Congress, who actually wish to survive, politically and otherwise, will follow the lead of the youth, inspired by Lyndon LaRouche, in creating a future based on the commitment to the use and development of nuclear fission and related technologies.

LaRouche Youth at the U.S. Congress

In the context of the April 16 release of the G-7 communiqué, which included a statement promoting the use of nuclear power, and the breakdown of the IPCC closed-door talks in Brussels, the Washington, D.C. LYM spent a week holding meetings with the relevant Congressional offices in preparation for the April 17 House Science and Technology Committee hearing on the IPCC report. The LYM elicited a variety of reactions from each of the 43 relevant offices, but each received material on the global warming swindle, as well as LaRouche's work: "Is the U.S. Congress Dying Before Our Eyes? The Baby-Doomers" (*EIR*, April 13, 2007).

When the hearing began, everyone in attendance, including the six IPCC representatives, had in their hands, a new item: the LYM's original leaflet entitled, "Is There Really a Consensus on Global Warming?"¹ As the representatives from the IPCC presented their testimony, the LYM, seated only two feet behind the panelists, began commenting on the absurd ramblings—loud enough for them to hear, but they could do nothing about it.

1. See leaflet at larouchepac.com

During the cross-examination, Rep. Dana Rohrbacher (R-Calif.) took on IPCC panelist Steven Schneider. Rohrbacher, noting the effects of Solar rays on climate change, asked the eco-fascist, very simply, whether the planet had gotten hotter or colder in the past seven years. When Schneider refused to answer, the LYM behind him broke out in laughter. Encouraged by this response, the Congressman continued his questioning, as Schneider, who was seen on the monitor by all in attendance, shook visibly, and a LYM organizer loudly whispered behind him, "This guy isn't saying anything."

Following the hearing, the LYM members spoke with a prominent Congressman, who, being very pleased with the intervention on the IPCC, invited them to meet with his science fellow. Two days later, the LYM engaged the Congressman's science advisor in an in-depth discussion of the nature of man, as distinct from the beasts, and economics. After the hour-long dialogue, and the fellow's concern that he shouldn't "talk philosophy on the job," he proposed a follow up meeting to discuss LaRouche's economics textbook, *So You Wish To Learn All About Economics*, and relevant *EIR* material.

Step It Up! Can't Get It Up!

Immediately preceding the IPCC assault on the Congress, Felix Rohatyn's Middlebury College asset, Bill McKibben, had organized nationwide rallies to "step up" the pressure on political leaders and educational institutions to drastically reduce carbon emissions. Over the weekend of April 14-15, McKibben's group, Step It Up! held rallies across the country in a great, green orgy, said by McKibben, to be the "new Civil Rights Movement"—only this time, the intention would be to eliminate black people. McKibben's group, and a host of other youth groups, seriously invaded college campuses shortly after Gore won his Oscar, in order to get students frothed up about their future, as it was fatuously claimed to be threatened by man's disruption of the natural balance of the environment.

The U.S. LYM was out in force at these rallies, prepared for a fight. However, they discovered that what was orchestrated to be perceived as political action, was inconsistent with the commitments and intentions of the people participating in it.

The Step It Up! coverage of the D.C. rally actually boasted



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

A mere 200 people showed up for a Step It Up! rally demanding carbon reductions, on Capitol Hill April 14. LYM organizers confronted them with reality: that Gore's policies mean genocide.

a paltry 200 people on Capitol Hill, who spelled their demands for carbon reductions with their human bodies: “80% by 2050.” That same day, organizers encountered more high-schoolers rallying against the genocide in Darfur, than rallyers for the “new Civil Rights Movement.” In talking to people at the rally, the D.C. LYM found they were able to dispel Romantic sympathies for the great, white polar bear, when they reminded people of the immediate reality of an imminent collapse of the global financial system and the accelerated decline of physical standards of living. In light of the mortgage market drowning in liquidity, the polar bear on the melting iceberg—even if it were true—appeared as irrelevant as it is.

The largest rally McKibben’s network gloated over, took place in Seattle, Washington, where the Seattle LYM intercepted the masses in full, Swiftian force. LYM organizers disguised as a fat Al Gore, a manly Queen of England, and accompanied by raving, anti-industry kooks, showed the marchers exactly how silly they were acting. At a rally of only 1,500 people, the vast majority (approximately 70-80%) were over 35 years of age, with a gregarious herd of Baby-Doomers

demanding that there are too many people on the planet, and too much dirty industry. However, when the LYM challenged the beliefs of the youth walking among this crowd, they found that none of them had the older generation’s fanatical commitment to green malthusianism.

When LYM organizers explained the racist, mass-murderous effects of an 80% reduction of CO₂ worldwide, the youth were shocked, and confessed that they had never actually thought through the effects of the policy they were brought in to support. Other youth, who were challenged on their claims to knowledge of the Earth’s climate, or nuclear power, admitted that they were only at the rally because they were desperate to do *something* that was political.

As We Clean Up the Gore

With similar deployments in Canada, Ibero-America, Western Europe, the Philippines, etc., the LYM has, in a very short period, seeded the field for a crucial fight to break out over science and the nature of man. Under Lyndon LaRouche’s leadership, the LYM has drawn members of the scientific community into this fight, as typified by the 17,000 scientists who signed their names to a petition denouncing the global warming hoax, and others, worldwide, who are in contact with *EIR*. The LYM interventions into Al Gore’s Climate Project meetings have induced dozens, among the 1,000 individuals trained to ape Gore’s inconvenient lies, to surrender, with either psychological breakdowns, or, in the best cases, breakthroughs.

With universities already beginning to cancel Climate Project and related events, the LaRouche movement has its focus on the future. With the aid of the recently launched, youth-run LaRouche PAC website, and increased collaboration with members of the U.S. Congress, the potential is further being realized for sane citizens and leaders within the United States to organize our allies in Russia, China, and India around a renewed commitment to the development of man in the universe. As we continue, to shore-up this victory, we move, simultaneously ahead, to shift world politics back to the principles set forth by Franklin Roosevelt, and elaborated by Lyndon LaRouche.

For More Information About Bill McKibben and the Middlebury Mafia

- David Dixon, “Middlebury College, Felix Rohatyn, and the Green-Brown Cult of Al Gore,” *EIR*, April 6, 2007.
- Anton Chaitkin, Leandra Bernstein, and Michele Steinberg, “The Freaks Who Created Al Gore,” *EIR*, April 6, 2007.

Alberto Gonzales's Real Offense: A Shill for Cheney-Bush War Crimes

by Edward Spannaus

“One Himmler was enough,” was Lyndon LaRouche’s stark reaction to President Bush’s nomination of then-White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales, to become Attorney General of the United States, in November 2004. As Gonzales’s career comes toward a close, LaRouche’s characterization of his role as Nazi-like bureaucrat, facilitating the regime’s evil deeds, has been more than vindicated.

In testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Jan. 6, 2005, LaRouche’s spokeswoman Debra Hanania-Freeman told the Senate that Gonzales “has a well-documented record of recommending dictatorial powers for the President in pursuit of the ‘war on terrorism,’ recommendations which precisely parallel the type of legal advice provided to the Hitler regime in 1930s Germany.”

The testimony submitted on LaRouche’s behalf should have impelled to Senate to decisively reject the Gonzales nomination, thus avoiding the disaster with which the Committee found itself faced, in Gonzales’s pathetic appearance before it on April 19.

This is what, in part, the LaRouche testimony advised the Senate, in January 2005:

“Alberto Gonzales is a man with no law-enforcement experience; his legal background is strictly in business and corporate law. What quality, therefore, so recommends him to President Bush, that he would be nominated for the position of the chief law enforcement officer of the United States?

“That sole quality, is Gonzales’s obsequious personal loyalty to George W. Bush, the defining characteristic of which is Mr. Gonzales’s willingness to stretch and pervert the law, to serve the interests and obsessions of his patrons.

“While this is evident in numerous areas in which he represented Bush family interests, either in private practice at the Vinson & Elkins law firm, or while serving in the Texas State government—and for the past four years, while serving as Counsel to President Bush—it is most flagrantly displayed in his handling of death-penalty cases for Governor Bush in Texas.

“I believe this is worth emphasizing, for it demonstrates a common thread which reappears later, in Mr. Gonzales’s recommendations found in the ‘torture memos.’ In his disregard for truth, and his justification of the exercise of raw

Executive power, Mr. Gonzales follows in the evil footsteps of Carl Schmitt and those who provided the legal underpinnings for the Nazi dictatorship.”

Cheney’s Conduit

What the LaRouche testimony then presented, was that during the six years in which George W. Bush was governor of Texas, a record 152 persons were executed—more than any other governor had executed in modern U.S. history. For the first 57 of these, Bush made his final decisions based upon the recommendation of his legal counsel Alberto Gonzales—always *for* proceeding with the execution—with Gonzales invariably presenting only the prosecutor’s version of the case, and failing to inform the governor of relevant legal issues that would mitigate in the accused’s favor, including evidence of actual innocence.

As to Gonzales’s deepest crimes—his role in facilitating and endorsing torture and flagrant violations of U.S. law and treaty obligations, the LaRouche testimony stated:

“In the White House, Gonzales has functioned as a conduit for legal theories and recommendations coming out of the Office of Vice President Dick Cheney, and Cheney’s counsel David Addington. Gonzales has consistently passed on legal advice to the President in which he has told the President that he can exercise virtually unlimited, untrammelled powers in his role as Commander-in-Chief in time of war. Having no background himself in military law or international law, Gonzales consistently ignored the advice of military lawyers and military professionals from the uniformed services, as well as the advice of international lawyers and others in the State Department (even the Secretary of State himself), and has instead put his imprimatur on crackpot legal theories identified with the notion of the ‘imperial Presidency.’ ”

The testimony went on to describe the precise parallels between the legal arguments presented to Bush by Gonzales on behalf of Cheney, Addington, et al., and those legal and policy arguments used by Hitler’s Third Reich on the Eastern Front, to wit, that this is “a new kind of war, against a new kind of enemy,” that the enemy did not deserve the protections of international law and treaties, and so forth.

The Threat of War Crimes Prosecutions

The essential facts of Gonzales's role in this respect were well known at that time of his confirmation hearings.

In January 2002, amidst a furiously raging dispute within the Administration as to how to deal with prisoners and suspected terrorists captured in Afghanistan, Gonzales submitted, over his own name, a secret memorandum actually drafted by Addington, warning the President that he and others were in the process of committing war crimes, as strictly defined under the Geneva Conventions, and anti-torture treaties and laws. The Gonzales/Addington memo then recommended a series of steps that should be taken which, it said, "substantially reduces the threat of domestic criminal prosecution under the War Crimes Act."

Within weeks of the submission of this memo, President Bush and the Administration did adopt the recommendations contained therein, to reject the application of the Geneva Conventions—with the disastrous consequences now well-known to the nation and to the world.

Also stressed in the LaRouche testimony, and in *EIR*'s coverage at the time, was the issue of the Justice Department's utter failure to enforce the 1965 Voting Rights Act; its purging of the Department's Civil Rights Division and its Voting Rights Section of experienced, competent lawyers; and replacing them with right-wing ideologues who were promoting GOP-sponsored voter-suppression efforts. This has, of course, now emerged as a key underlying issue in the 2006 purge of U.S. Attorneys under Gonzales's tenure as Attorney General, especially in New Mexico and Washington State.

It is essential to emphasize that the U.S. Senate was fully aware of all of this, when it confirmed Gonzales as Attorney General by a 60-to-36 vote on Feb. 3, 2005. Had the Democrats mobilized to do so, and shown real leadership, the nomination could have been blocked. And those Republicans who voted unanimously for Gonzales's confirmation, over the opposition of a group of distinguished retired military officers, now have no one to blame but themselves for the dilemma in which they find themselves.

Now, the only question is, how long the White House will persist in backing Gonzales, before bowing to the inevitable. With only one Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee still fully supporting Gonzales, and an increasing number of Congressional Republicans calling for his resignation, it seems to be only a matter of time.

Why Gonzales Doesn't Recall

The *New York Times*' editorial characterization of Gonzales as giving the appearance, in his April 19 testimony, of a "dull-witted apparatchik" is totally apt. As numerous Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, noted, Gonzales couldn't remember meetings and events that took place only a few months ago, and he didn't seem to know how the Department of Justice, which he is in charge of, actually works. And

while claiming not to know the reasons that the various U.S. Attorneys were fired, he nonetheless insisted that nothing improper had been done. It got to the point where exasperated Democrats and Republicans alike agreed that there was no point in asking him further questions, because they weren't getting any answers.

However, it is just possible that Gonzales was actually telling the truth, when he repeated, close to 100 times, to the Senate Judiciary Committee, that, "I don't recall," "I don't remember," "I don't know," and the like. After all, one tends to remember things that are important to one's self, including those crucial decisions for which one takes personal responsibility.

But as we have seen, going back to the Texas death-penalty cases, up through the torture policy, NSA surveillance of Americans, and so on, Gonzales was just a pass-through, a cipher. He was the legal gatekeeper for the White House, passing along legalistic sophistry for Bush and Cheney, on how they could do what they were already determined to do anyway, and providing the legalistic cover for it.

It reminds one of the accountant, who, when asked "What's two plus two?" responds: "It's whatever the boss wants it to be."

On matters of much more importance than the firing of the U.S. Attorneys, Gonzales showed the same pattern of lack of recollection, and outright evasiveness, in his 2005 confirmation hearings. This was especially the case, with respect to the development of the Administration's torture and detention policies. This was noted by a number of Senators; the statements of Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.), preceding the Judiciary Committee vote on Gonzales's confirmation on Jan. 26, 2005, have a especially familiar ring today.

"We heard him [Gonzales] condemn torture generally, but refuse to discuss what he thought constituted torture," Kohl said. "We heard him commit to honor our international agreements, but waffle when asked when they apply. We heard him denounce the abuses that were committed in Iraq, but refuse to discuss whether they might be illegal. We heard him commit to hold any one involved responsible for their actions, but repeat pre-determined conclusions about what happened and who was to blame."

"When asked by members on this Committee about his views on these policies, and his role in shaping them, Judge Gonzales either could not remember, or was not responsive. When asked about whether he thought torture was ever productive, after more than two years of participating in discussions on the subject, he told the Committee, 'I have no way of forming an opinion on that.' He admits to attending meetings where specific methods of torture were discussed, but told the Committee that he cannot recall anything that was said."

And why should he? He was just the gatekeeper for those like Cheney, who have yet to be held accountable.

In Memoriam

Kenneth Lewis Kronberg (April 18, 1948–April 11, 2007)

by Nancy Spannaus

The death of Ken Kronberg on April 11, 2007 represents an irreplaceable loss of a leader of the National Caucus of Labor Committees, who contributed immeasurably to the intellectual depth and life of the LaRouche organization. While most will associate him primarily with his role in the physical production of the LaRouche organization's literature—at which he was a genius—his passion and lasting legacy lay in his contributions to creating a new Renaissance.

Ken made this contribution largely through his activity as the managing editor (i.e., the one who did the lion's share of the work) on the NCLC's political-cultural journal, *The Campaigner*, and as co-founder and editor of the Schiller Institute's *Fidelio* magazine. Many are familiar with the way he patiently, but intensely, worked with dozens of authors to edit and illustrate their work, in order to make a beautiful presentation in a thorough-composed journal.

As for his own intellectual and cultural work, it was multifaceted. He had a lifelong commitment, in line with his own family background, to keeping alive the Yiddish Renaissance tradition, and was a leading participant in the NCLC's celebrations of the German poet Heinrich Heine in the early 1980s, along with the late Mark Burdman. Ken continued his

work on the Yiddish Renaissance tradition into the recent period, encouraging, consulting with, enriching, and editing the work of Steve Meyer, Paul Kreingold, David Shavin, Michele Steinberg, and others on Moses Mendelssohn, the humanist Jewish tradition.

As befitted his scientific education, Ken had also delved deeply into the work of English scientist William Gilbert (1544-1603) and his seminal work *De Magnete*, and he taught classes on this.

One of Ken's groundbreaking works grew out of a presentation at an NCLC national conference, and was later published in *New Solidarity* newspaper, the 1992 *EIR* Special Report "The Genocidal Roots of Bush's New World Order," and finally in *New Federalist* newspaper, as a devastating weapon in the battle against the genocide lobby, and the cultural depravity that goes with it. This was "How the Romans Nearly Destroyed Civilization," an extensive study of the devastation wrought by the Roman Empire over centuries and across continents, scientifically connecting the process of the depopulation of the Mediterranean region with the dominance at Rome of the anti-human cults and mystery religions, the blood orgies of the gladiatorial games, and the economy of "bread and circuses" which characterized Rome.

Perhaps dearest to Ken's heart was the study of Classical poetry and drama, with a particular emphasis on William Shakespeare. Ken directed the 1982 Labor Committee production of *Macbeth*, which toured various East Coast venues. In 2000, he directed performances of extracted scenes of *Julius Caesar*, organized on the theme of "Vox Populi, or Popular Opinion"—the tyranny of the mob. Over the years, he also directed various Cervantes interludes, selections from Shakespeare plays (some with adults, some with children), a full-length production of Friedrich Schiller's *The Parasite*, and children's productions of *The Odyssey* and *The Magic*



EIRNS

Ken (left foreground), leading a rally in New York City, of the U.S. Labor Party, calling for the impeachment of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, May 1975.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Ken, reciting "Ode on a Grecian Urn," by John Keats, at an ICLC/Schiller Institute conference in September 1999.

Flute. He also taught extensively on poetry.

His work was expressed in the symposium he organized for the Winter 1995 *Fidelio* feature on “Metaphor and Poetry,” which was introduced by his own article, “Some Simple Examples of Poetic Metaphor.” He wrote short poems for his friends, and longer poems that he never circulated, as well as the poem “In Memoriam: Indira Gandhi” (reproduced on the following pages), which was written in 1986, and delivered to Mrs. Gandhi’s son Rajiv Gandhi (who himself became Prime Minister of India), by Lyndon LaRouche’s *EIR* representative in India, Ramtanu Maitra. Rajiv Gandhi had Ken’s poem published in the Congress Party magazine. The poem can also be found in the Fall 2004 edition of *Fidelio*.

Ken’s depth of knowledge of science, and his compositional skills, and his commitment to educating a future youth movement at the highest level, came together in his indispensable contribution to *EIR*’s special Christmas edition of 2005. In that issue, LaRouche’s paper “The Principle of ‘Power’ ” was supplemented by 19 contributions by members of the LaRouche Youth Movement on universal physical principles, to make a powerful Socratic dialogue. Without Ken’s commitment to executing this project with attention to every crucial detail, as with so many others, it would not have happened.

The bare facts of Ken’s life should also be noted. He was born in New York City 58 years ago to Martin and Shirley Kronberg. He attended Bronx High School of Science, and graduated in 1968 at the age of 20 from St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He spent a year in Santa Barbara, California, as a junior fellow at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. Thereafter, he returned to New York City, where he did graduate work at the New School for Social Research Graduate Faculty, and worked as an editor for the American Institute of Physics, and for John Wiley & Sons. In 1971, he joined the Labor Committees; soon thereafter, he married Molly Hammett, who survives him. Their marriage produced a son, Max Kronberg, now 22 years old.

Ken was elected a member of the National Committee of the NCLC in 1974, was a steering committee member in the New York Region of the Labor Committees, and a National Committee member in the Midwest—in the Detroit Region—from 1975 to 1977. He re-

turned to New York and took charge of the production of all literature for the political movement. He founded World-Comp in 1978 and became president of PMR in 1979. He devoted himself to maintaining quality literature production, through thick and thin, up to the day of his death.

Throughout all his political work, he collaborated closely with his wife Molly, who took a leading role in the creation of EIRNS and in production of the movement’s newspapers and pamphlets. Molly joined Ken on the NCLC’s National Committee in 1982.

For those of us who worked closely with him, and relied on him, and for whom now the sorrow seems almost too much to bear, Ken’s force of intellect and kindness to those around him provide a legacy complementary to his intellectual contributions, testified to by the extraordinary turnout at his funeral. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

The Immortality We May Share

Dear Molly:

For all among us, the realization of the purpose of a life lies within a certain continuity which is centered for each in both our forebears and in the outcome of the lives of those who come after we have passed on. In all the storms of life, our connection to that process and its outcome, is the durable, immortal meaning of our having once lived. In moments such as these, we either cling to that dedication of our living, or we were no more than virtually beasts.

The ugly, horror-stricken moment must pass. To this end Nancy’s memorandum on a selection among certain aspects of Ken’s life as part of us serves a certain, essential purpose, for this passing moment. What is left out of her account, is the reference to what is even more crucial now than Ken’s past life as such: what does his having lived mean for the future of mankind?

He was struck down by a sickness, amid more than a decade and a half of both persecution by our enemies and betrayal by not only many among our former friends, but truly evil forces of those who had already been not only our own enemies, but, in fact those who are still, dead or living, among the enemies of humanity today. What counts most, therefore, is what Ken’s living contributed to the future of mankind.

Therefore, put aside the oppressive circumstances and the inner torment, betrayals of trust, and sickness which Ken endured during recent times. Grasp the essence of his life. That which is immortal is what is left in our living hands, to defend.

What are we doing, therefore, for the future of mankind? That is a crucial part of Ken’s future now that he is gone. On that account, the worst effect of Ken’s passing is that on those who have abandoned efficient expressions of hope in that future for which Ken dedicated decades of his life. As long as I live, and hopefully, beyond, that banner, his banner, will remain unfurled.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Chairman, on behalf of the International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC)
April 19, 2007

COMPOSITION OF *this poem, commemorating the October 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, began after the mid-flight explosion of the U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986. It was presented to Mrs. Gandhi's son, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, by Lyndon LaRouche's EIR representative in India, Ramtanu Maitra, and was subsequently published in the April 1987 issue of Congress Varnika, the official journal of India's then-ruling Congress (I) Party.*

In Memorial Indira Gandhi d. Oct. 31, 1984

I

Ascending now the steep steps at Jaipur,
The watchman paused, held up his lamp;
Below, the moonlight shimmered like a gauze
Of purple muslin, and the wind was damp.

A little further, at the arch above,
A solitary figure plies his trade:
With sextant, glass, and astrolabe,
He plots the stars' emerge from evening shade.

“What see you, father?” cries the guardsman out
(As torchlight wheels, and ashes fall);
“What future profit do the stars reveal?
Will Fate betray us, all our hopes recall?”

And, turning from his hoops of beaten brass
As if to wake, the sire replies:
“Dear son, my measures cannot scan our fate,
For God's not dicing with the patterned skies—

“The circles of the stars are moved by One
Who Law upholds, not moments hire . . .”
“But surely, father, some small sign He shows,
Some silent message echoes our desire?”

The watchman placed his torch upon the fire,
Awaiting answer to his quest;
The elder put his instruments to rest,
And challenged, said, “My son, what men call blessed

“Are not the birdsongs' momentary joys;
Such things soon fade, as lotus hues;



EIRNS

Indira Gandhi, oil portrait by Gary Genazzio, 1987.

These lustrous forest minstrels were but made
To image the unfolding of God's muse."

Unchecked, the guardsman did his cause pursue.
The night was still; an owl swooped past;
No soul disturbed their discourse thus, until
The dawn spread open to the world at last.

II

Above all else, what endeared her to us
Was her toughness of intellect, the star
She wore diamondlike in the Indian sky.

She was descendant of a nation-building
Family, and sought to lift her people
Upon the pinnacle of history.

Now she is gone, this jewel whose enemies
Called tyrant. Harsh winter whistles though the trees.
They, they will inherit this barrenness.

III

The "Discovery of India," she knew,
Was India's discovery anew
That ancient pathways strengthen our resolve
To generate the future, to evolve—

That knowledge of the past will guide our way,
As God's untested spacecraft we embark,
To lift us beyond height, whence we survey
The mobs of ignorance, suspicions dark—

That misery and tumult, pain and want
Are not man's state of nature, but a cave,
Whose depths may be illumined by a spark
Brought down from heaven, to emblaze our hearts.

Beside man's hearth there burns a sacred fire,
Nurtured by huntsmen 'gainst the starlit night;
O, let the orchids that adorned her pyre
Become the blossoms of that holy light!

For the India she saw, was never known
Except as past and future, never shown
Except to those whose vision could contain
The lofty Humalayan mountain range.

Her ashes blow, they billow in the wind;
Like birds they twist, they soar beyond our sight;
Remember us, Indira, on your flight;
Bear witness to things greater than our sins.

How rare those moments, when our eyes reveal
A beauty born of certitude and warmth;
How short those glimpses, which above we steal,
To recognize God's triumph over death!

Let the star's celestial motions
Unwind flowerings of grief;
Let her fathers' secret ages
Mourn nobility too brief.

IV

"From fairest creatures we desire increase";
From all God's creatures we desire increase;
From each and every flower and leaf
Our hearts burst open for the soul's release.
Our Bard, who fashioned music from the rude,
Unfinished letterings of earthy men,
Bequeathed to us a father's attitude
Toward those who seek their nurture from our pen;
For wisely sang he praise of nature free,
Of love and beauty, twilight, of the Age—
What star amongst us dare to sing as he,
Unstrained, the precious goodness man attains?
Indira, like Shakuntala, fly o'er:
Lead continents of children to explore!

Kenneth Kronberg
10.25.86

NOTES

Jaipur Greatest of the 18th-Century astronomical observatories build by the scientist-statesman Jai Singh.

"*The Discovery of India*" Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Gandhi's father, wrote this history of India while imprisoned by the British during the 1940s.

"*From fairest creatures we desire increase*" From the opening of Shakespeare's sonnet series, the great fugue which charted the laws of verbal action in the English language.

Shakuntala Heroine of the drama by Kalidasa, the Fourth-Century author considered to be the greatest poet and dramatist of Sanskrit literature.

The Cave Book VII of Plato's *Republic*. Is it the Greek Prometheus, or the Vedic Agni, who ignites man's creative spirit?

Germany Leads Charge To Regulate Hedge-Fund ‘Locusts’

by Rainer Apel

To all participants in the April 13, Washington, D.C. meetings of the G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors, it was clear beforehand that no concrete action would result from the talks there, about the problem posed by hedge and private-equity funds. These vast, unregulated speculative funds pose an enormous threat to the global financial-monetary system.

As *EIR* Banking columnist John Hoefle reported last week, there are about 9,000 hedge funds in the world, managing a combined \$2.1 trillion. The private-equity business has \$1.4 trillion in assets under management. The specialty of such firms is buying up productive companies, stripping their assets, laying off their workers, and leaving the company a ravaged hulk.

The German government, initiator of a move for fund transparency at the G-7 summit in Britain, two years ago, did not even send its Finance Minister to this year’s meeting, but rather sent Assistant Finance Minister Thomas Mirow, who has been in charge of most of the talks about the initiative anyway.

Central Bankers, Hedge Fund Operators Meet

The D.C. meetings, which occurred on the sidelines of the Spring summit of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, also saw a separate session on April 15, of finance ministers and central bank governors with 20 representatives of hedge funds, including funds such as Cerberus, Blackstone, and Fortress. Such a special meeting with hedge funds is unprecedented in IMF/World Bank history, and points to both the clout these funds have, and the worries on the part of bankers over what will happen if the house of cards falls down.

Mirow told the press after the meeting that his government

“is not pulling back from demanding a code of conduct for hedge funds. The theme remains important, it remains on the agenda, and will be pushed further by Germany. The big number of dates and events that are dealing with this theme, do indicate one thing, at least: This is not simply an eruption of German spleen.”

Remarks by a leading official of the Chinese central bank, April 16, in support of the German initiative, showed that even if the governments of the United States and Britain, the countries of origin of 90% of all hedge funds, oppose fund control and transparency for the time being, other countries have different views.

On May 19, the G-7 finance ministers will convene again, this time with their Russian colleague, in Potsdam, Germany, to hear a report drafted by Mario Draghi, the governor of the Italian central bank—who is known for his extreme pro-British views. As *EIR* documented 15 years ago, Draghi participated in the June 2, 1992, meeting onboard Queen Elizabeth’s yacht *Britannia*, off the coast of Italy, which planned privatizations of state-sector industries carried out later, when Draghi was a government official in the 1990s. After an interlude, as head of Goldman Sachs Europe, Draghi was appointed governor of the Bank of Italy in 2006.

German Warnings

After his return to Germany, Mirow told the press that in spite of the known controversies among G-7 members, including “differing interests and cultures of financial-market control,” he was nevertheless optimistic that some kind of hedge-fund control would come, sooner or later. There is more awareness globally now, of the importance of the issue, he said. “The theme has gained considerably, in speed and range, and it will not retreat into some corner, again.”



Assistant German Finance Minister Thomas Mirow is pressing Germany's demand for "a code of conduct for hedge funds."

Inside Germany, there is considerable demand for fund control—ferment created and enhanced by a weeks-long campaign of interventions by the LaRouche Youth Movement, which in April 2005, was reflected in a spectacular attack by Franz Müntefering, then-chairman of the Social Democratic Party, on the funds as “locusts that come in and graze everything to the ground.” Since then, funds are usually referred to in Germany, as “locusts.”

Then-Chancellor of Germany, Gerhard Schröder (Social Democrat), took up the theme for his July 2005 initiative at the G-7 Summit in Britain, where it was blocked—as Schröder himself revealed on television several weeks later, by “Wall Street and London.” After his defeat in the German elections of September 2005, Schröder was replaced by Angela Merkel, chairwoman of the Christian Democratic Union, a politician with a neo-con profile, who had little interest in maintaining the campaign for hedge-fund control.

Only after the dramatic change of the political situation in the United States after the midterm elections of November 2006, when the new Democrat-controlled Congress voiced a commitment to deal with the fund issue, did the German government re-engage in the initiative for “locust fund” transparency. The surge of Democratic votes was shaped by an intense political campaign by the LaRouche Youth Movement in the United States, which helped to elect many new Democrats to Congress, who are much more interested in regulation of the highly speculative financial markets.

Shortly before the recent Washington, D.C. meetings, Germany's chief financial market regulator, Jochen Sanio, warned that hedge-fund collapses could blow the entire system apart. He said that the Amaranth hedge-fund collapse last September within just a few days, was a “clear warning signal,” a “twilight on the horizon. In the next case of such a dimension, the lightning could strike and shake up the financial system.” Sanio said he was worried about the U.S. mortgage market situation. “It may only be hoped that we are not now at the beginning of a collapse in the U.S. housing market, which through the U.S. conjuncture would affect the global

conjuncture. That would be the last thing we would need.”

Sanio endorsed the German initiative for an international discussion about hedge funds, the discussion as such being of value already in itself, because “from now on, no one can play down the issue any longer. “The highly speculative hedge funds pose a great danger to the stability of the financial system.”

And one day after Mirow's return, a member of the Green Party's parliamentary group, Gerhard Schick, wrote a letter to the parliamentary financial policy committee, calling for a hearing on the hedge-funds issue.

‘Systemic Danger’

Another political breakthrough recently, in the German debate on locust funds, was a March 7 op-ed in the German edition of the *Financial Times*, written by Dierk Hirschel, chief economist of the German Labor Federation (DGB). Under the headline, “Systemic Danger from the Caribbean,” he wrote that because of the scope of hedge-fund actions, neither well-meaning appeals for good conduct nor expectations that the banks, which are closely interconnected with the funds, will see to it that funds act reasonably, will work. Since after all, Hirschel wrote, “financial stability is a public good,” political action is required, but the German G-7/G-8 agenda for fund transparency would, for the time being, meet “embittered resistance from Wall Street and the City of London. Without international agreements, however, the funds will continue operating undisturbed, as before, from their Caribbean offshore centers. Therefore, if the German and French treasury ministers don't want to wait for the next financial crisis, they should force the euro-zone now to march ahead with regulations. A strict limitation for trading by financial transactors of the euro-zone with offshore centers must be part of such an initiative.”

DGB Chairman Michael Sommer followed with similar remarks on April 5, announcing that the labor movement would begin a campaign for the regulation of locust funds. Two proposals have been worked out for the DGB, by Hans-Joachim Voth at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain, a former consultant for the German Stock Exchange in Frankfurt. Voth wrote that option #1 would imply government moves for “onshoring,” which means to impose regulations for funds that are now in offshore havens. This is not very likely to happen, he believes, because of strong objections from the U.S.A. and U.K. Option #2 is more feasible, he thinks, implying that banks will be given stronger credit regulations, including strong restrictions on leveraged credits. Voth writes that this latter option can be realized more easily, because a limited number of big banks are the dominant prime-brokers for funds in any case.

On May 7, Sommer and his fellow labor federation chairmen of the other G-8 states will meet with the German Chancellor, to present labor's recommendations for the G-8 Summit, to be held in Heiligendamm, Germany, four weeks later.

EIR Submits Congressional Testimony On the ‘Global Warming Con Job’

This testimony, prepared by Marcia Baker, was submitted for the record to the House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology for its hearing April 17, on “The State of Climate Change Science 2007: The Findings of the Fourth Assessment Report by the IPCC, Working Group II: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.”

Time To End the Global Warming Con Job, Swindles, and Racist Geopolitics

Dear Chairman Bart Gordon, Ranking Member Ralph Hall, and Members of the Committee:

The occasion of the April 6 release of the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II report on “Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability,” and your April 17 House Science Committee discussion of it with six IPCC authors, on measures for “adapting to and mitigating” a non-existent CO₂ crisis, comes at a critical historical moment, when it is urgent to put a complete stop to this decades-long con-job. Politically, any Congressman who steps off the global warming bandwagon will be joining a fast-growing momentum against the fraud.

In brief, here are a few of the recent developments:

Momentum Against the Fraud

- More scientists than ever are speaking out against the lies. On April 18, even the Russian Vice Chairman of the IPCC, Yuri Izrael, wrote in an op ed for Ria Novosti News Agency: “I think the panic over global warming is totally unjustified. There is no serious threat to the climate.” Izrael is head of the Institute of Global Climate and Ecology in Russia, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and one of the three IPCC Vice Chairmen. “There is no need to dramatize the anthropogenic impact, because the climate has always been subject to change under Nature’s influence, even when humanity did not even exist,” he wrote.

- Al Gore and Arnold Schwarzenegger are meeting with increasing ridicule and opposition, as scandals pour forth on their backers and personal connections to green swindles and racism. For example, on April 10, Barrick Gold was forced to withdraw its \$50,000 contribution to the \$200,000 tab for

Gore’s upcoming May 11 appearance in Santiago, Chile, because of a public (environmentalist) outcry against Barrick’s 1997 grab of Congo gold mines, its customary polluting practices, and its Bush family/Maurice Strong pedigree.

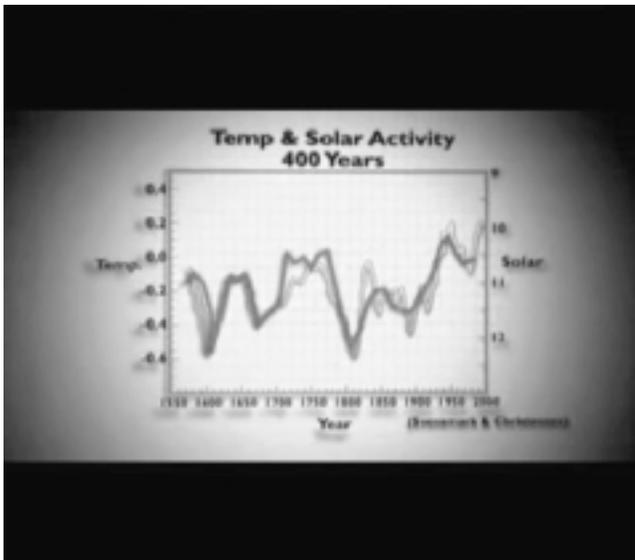
- A spotlight is now on Gore’s personal hedge fund for cashing in on green deals. He co-chairs Generation Investment Management, set up for him in London in 2004 by a top official of Goldman Sachs: David Blood, formerly the head of Goldman’s Asset Management; thus “Blood and Gore.” Goldman Sachs, in turn, is among the top two beneficial owners of the Chicago Climate Exchange, part of the nexus controlling the up-and-running European Union emissions trading, and set to make a killing internationally, if and when the United States enacts “cap-and-trade” of greenhouse gases.

- In October 2006, Gore was hired outright as a global warming consultant to the British government, which is leading the charge for promoting radical green schemes worldwide in the name of greenhouse gas reduction. Yet Britain is now being rebuffed at the United Nations.

- The April 17 UN Security Council hearing on global warming took place only under strong protest from the Group of 77 nations, and Russia and China. Britain, which currently holds the Council’s rotating chairmanship, insisted on such a session, but was forced to concede that only talk, and no action would transpire. Liu Zhen Min, Chinese Vice-Ambassador to the UN, sharply told British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett: “In our view [speaking for the developing countries], the discussions at this meeting should be regarded as an exception giving rise to neither outcome documents nor follow-up actions.”

These are just a few of the breaking developments. To assist Committee members in a thorough reconsideration of their mistaken involvement in the global warming deception, we here provide a summary of key points in three areas: the science fraud, the financial swindles, and the continuity of the hoax in terms of past “green” eugenics—race science.

At the end, we append the text of a document, “Resolution on the Fight Against Global Warming,” which is circulating in advance of the California Democratic Party annual convention April 28-29 in San Diego. It originated with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Legacy Club of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, and is part of an international mobilization by the LaRouche Youth Movement wing of the LaRouche Political Action Committee to bust up the delusions and fake



Global temperatures closely align with solar activity, not CO₂, giving the lie to the global warming promoters. This graph is from the "Great Global Warming Swindle," the film shown on Britain's Channel 4 March 8.

"consensus" about threats of an Earth meltdown.

Lyndon LaRouche himself characterized the present political moment this way, in the preface to an April 13 strategic policy document, *Where the Future Lies*: "Former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore's recent popularity is already on the wane. 'Bio-fuels' is strictly for quick-buck swindlers and the credulities of the 'Bio-fools' upon whom they prey. In reality, the world's current trends are dominated by a surge of commitment to nuclear-fission fuels as the leading development policy of Eurasia and also other parts of the world. As an April 7th London *Economist* editorial suggests, the question on the table among all actually thinking circles of leadership around the world, is, who is going to control the economic policies of a world in which, in fact, nuclear fission and related technologies will be taking over."

Scientific Fraud and the Lie of 'Consensus'

To restate the essentials of the fraudulent claims of CO₂ greenhouse gas/global warming, we quote here from a recent exchange with an Australian scientist, one of many now speaking out around the world.

In an interview on Rupert Murdoch's SkyNews TV, featured on April 12 on *The Australian* newspaper's website, Ian Plimer, a professor of Mining Geology at the University of Adelaide in South Australia, succinctly refuted Al Gore's global warming hoax.

Noting that he is "not in the game of popularity," Professor Plimer began by observing, "Looking at the long history of Planet Earth, we see we've had massive climate changes, driven by the orbit of the Earth, driven by mountains being

built and washed away, and driven by the Sun. And all these features have been ignored in the climate connection hysteria that we are hearing. And I think if we ignore history, we do it at our peril. Even slight changes that we are experiencing today, we can relate to solar activity."

Interviewer: "So you're saying we're playing no part in any this?"

Plimer: "We're playing a very, very small part indeed, because the main greenhouse gas is water vapor. Carbon dioxide is a very minor gas in the atmosphere and about 90% of the CO₂ in the atmosphere comes from de-gassing of the planet, through volcanoes, carbon dioxide oozing out from the soils, from algae, from bacteria, from plants. And the human contribution of carbon dioxide probably only contributes about 0.1% of the global temperature. So what we are doing is having an extremely minor effect on the planet."

Interviewer: "So, you'd have to be in the minority among scientists, though?"

Plimer: "I'm not in the minority in the geologists and astronomers. The scientists who are making the noise, and who are frightening people witless, are the atmospheric scientists who are having a wonderful long party of operating in self-interest in doing research on the atmosphere. We have in this country far more geologists than we have atmospheric scientists, and you can count them on the fingers of your hand, the number of geologists who take a contrary view to mine."

Thus, Prof. Plimer underscores the simple point: Any claim of *consensus* among scientists for global warming, is a lie. Look at the scale of the outcry among scientists against the lie:

- More than 17,000 scientists have signed a petition against the assertion that "human use of hydrocarbons is harmful," and against the signing of any treaty based on such "flawed" ideas. The signatories add that "increased atmospheric carbon dioxide is environmentally helpful." The petition project was started in 1998, and is led by Frederick Seitz, past president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.

- In Canada, 61 international scientists, many known for their work in meteorology, wrote an open letter on Jan. 10, 2007, to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, objecting to his government's greenhouse global warming claims. They point out that "no Canadian scientific review of the facts has ever been conducted." Their letter is titled, "61 Prominent International Scientists Call For An Open Climate Science Review of Kyoto."

The scientists state simply: " 'Climate change is real' is a meaningless phrase used repeatedly by activists to convince the public that a climate catastrophe is looming, and humanity is the cause. Neither of these fears is justified. Global climate changes all the time due to natural causes and the human impact still remains impossible to distinguish from this natural 'noise.' "

The letter especially calls for a halt to any government



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One of the chief IPCC global warmers, climate scientist Stephen H. Schneider, promoted global cooling until 1977. Now he enforces the line that there is absolute certainty on the global warming question—a big lie.

actions based on false science claims. The signators in Canada include professors from many institutions, such as the universities of Ottawa, Guelph, and Winnipeg, and prestigious agencies in the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere.

- On March 8, British TV Channel 4 aired a documentary, “The Great Global Warming Swindle,” debunking the Al Gore/IPCC global warming claims. The film featured interviews with numerous leading atmospheric researchers. The program drew 2.5 million viewers and has become one of the biggest “underground” movies in Washington, D.C., and around the world. One interviewee is Richard Lindzen, Professor of Atmospheric Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose subsequent *Newsweek* article from April 16, “‘Heretics’ vs. True Believers,” has been entered into your April 17 hearing record by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher.

Green Bubble: Carbon Trading

Behind the hoax of CO₂ emissions overheating the Earth, are networks in motion to make a killing off trading in carbon credits and allowances, as well as a raft of “go-green” swindles.

At the center of the demand for governments to cap emissions, so that carbon trading can take off, is a nexus of privately owned trading houses: the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), interconnected with the InterContinental Exchange, Inc. (ICE), whose subsidiary is the International Petroleum Exchange, all of which interconnect with EU emissions trading on the European Climate Exchange (ECX). The looting potential is indicated by the role of futures speculation on

the ICE/International Petroleum Exchange, in driving up the price of oil and gas. (Specifics on the ICE are in the report, “The Role of Market Speculation in Rising Oil and Gas prices,” still posted on Sen. Carl Levin’s website, since a May 8, 2006 Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing).

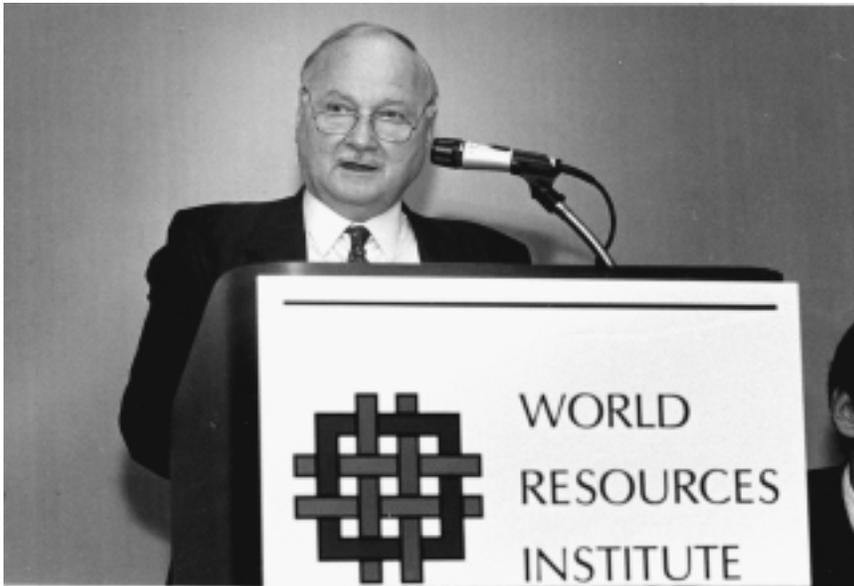
The CEO and originator of CCX in 2003 is Richard L. Sandor, pioneer of such speculative wonders as earthquake futures, Ginnie Mae futures, and the infamous Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMO), which are now blowing out. Sandor went on the board of directors of the ICE in 2002, placing himself in league with such international commodity-control figures as Sir Robert Reid, of Shell Oil, who has been the chairman of the International Petroleum Exchange since 1999. The largest owners of the ICE (as of September 2006) were Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, and others, including BP, AEP, and Duke Energy. The ICE, although juridically located in London, is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, operating as a *de jure* British offshore agency, and refusing compliance with any form of U.S. regulation or record-keeping.

This is what is behind the Al Gore/Arnold Schwarzenegger roadshows for “monetizing carbon” to “save the planet.” Among the corporate members of the CCX ready for carbon trading is the World Resources Institute (WRI), on whose Board since 2005 is Al Gore. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s consultant on emissions trading is a WRI senior staff member, Jonathan Pershing. On the Board of CCX is Maurice Strong, a founding Board member of the WRI in 1982, with a lifetime career in Malthusianism. He chaired the 1972 UN Environment Summit and the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and fostered the creation of the International Emissions Trading Association in 1999. Strong’s fellow activist is William K. Reilly, head of the Environmental Protection Agency in the George H.W. Bush Administration, who headed the U.S. delegation to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Most recently, Reilly co-authored a carbon-trade how-to report, “Allocating Allowances in a Greenhouse Gas Trading System,” by the National Commission on Energy Policy.

The hyperactivity of the Gore/Schwarzenegger duo occurs in the context of the behind-the-scenes political control operations in their respective parties—Felix Rohatyn on the Democratic side, and George Shultz on the Republican—who are longtime collaborators in privatization and globalization schemes to undermine nations.

Schwarzenegger, under an executive order he issued in October, is the figurehead for teams now deployed in Europe, Canada, and elsewhere, “to develop a multi-sector, market-based compliance system that could permit [carbon] trading between the European Union Trading System” and blocs of states in the United States (Executive Order S-20-06).

“As soon as carbon has a price, you are going to see a wave [of investment] in it. . .” Gore told the Science/Energy Committee joint March 21 hearing, in reply to a question from Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.).



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Maurice Strong, the Malthusian financier, chaired the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992; is on the board of the global warming propaganda machine, the World Resources Institute; and now promotes the carbon trading bubble.

Global Warming a Continuation of ‘Green’ Eugenics

Deeper than simple financial rip-off, the idea of using “pollution” as a commodity, and similar schemes, is in fact the continuation of a series of proposals and hoaxes amounting to “green” eugenics. After the master-race “sciences” (medicine, geography, and even landscape design) of the 1920s and 1930s were given a bad name by Hitler, post-World War II versions of the same outlook were set up under new names, especially “overpopulation” and “conservation” of nature. The 1948 Conservation Foundation (headed for a long time by William K. Reilly, now a cap-and-trade booster), the 1961 World Wildlife Fund, the 1982 World Resources Institute, are some of the more famous early names in the ongoing operation.

Anglo-Dutch financial and political figures were prominent, including Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, at one point a literal Nazi S.S. member; and Britain’s Sir Julian Huxley and Prince Philip, who spoke of using “ecology” to “cull” the human herd. Similarly, Canadian Maurice Strong warned of the population time bomb.

By the 1980s, “sustainable” development became the watchword, making the argument that natural resources are limited (and cannot be man-enhanced), so population must be cut, or the planet is doomed. In 1988, Margaret Thatcher issued the clarion call for reducing human activity because of global warming, in a speech to the Royal Society. Her “controller” on this campaign, Sir Crispin Tickell, was Britain’s Ambassador to the United Nations 1987-90, and in 1988 he saw to the creation of the IPCC. Dr. Stephen Schneider, in

on it from the beginning, testified to your own Committee April 17, that the IPCC was founded to involve over 100 nations in the campaign, in order to “to give credibility” and “to provide government ownership” of the idea of global warming. Schneider said that otherwise, only a small group supported it. (The *EIR* published a “Chronology of the Global Warming Swindle,” 1940-2007, with full citations, in the March 30, 2007 issue; see www.larouche.pub.com)

All along, the racist intent of these greenie formulations is evident in their consistent rationalization of denying agro-industrial and infrastructure development and population growth for the poor. Al Gore’s own 1992 book, *Earth in the Balance*, is exemplary. He wrote, “[The countries of Africa] are already putting great strains on their natural resources and threatening the integrity of their ecological systems, so it is truly

frightening to imagine the impact of doubling or tripling their numbers. . . .”

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, among other things, a promoter of trading carbon “offset-credits,” said in Washington D.C., in February 2007, that poor Third World nations can expect to get a flow of \$200 billion if they sell their carbon “rights” on world carbon markets this way—all in the name of preventing the Earth from overheating.

The Fight for Real Science

To sum up all the reasons why members of the Science Committee should now break with the global warming fraud, we end with the text of a resolution submitted on March 26, 2007 to the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, where it was tabled on April 10. This resolution is circulating, along with bibliographic material and a draft Federal “Emergency Recovery Act” (LaRouche PAC) for raising at the California State Democratic Party Convention, April 28, in San Diego. The Resolution originated with the FDR Legacy Club of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, who are activists with the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) of the LaRouche PAC.

Committed to restoring real scientific inquiry into the principles of climate and our solar system, a LYM research team recently completed a breakthrough study of Kepler’s *The Harmony of the World* and *New Astronomy*, which can be seen at wlym.com~animations/harmonies/index.php. A link is available on the website of NASA, “Kepler Mission: A Search for Habitable Planets:” <http://kepler.nasa.gov/johannes/keplersites.html>



Office of Gov. Schwarzenegger/William Foster

Arnold Schwarzenegger in Washington, D.C., April 11, to discuss his global warming plans for carbon taxes and carbon trading with Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Resolution on the Fight Against Global Warming

WHEREAS, a significant number of scientists worldwide, with varying specialties in atmospheric science, oceanography, cosmoclimatology, paleoclimatology, geophysics, chemistry, radiology, glaciology, and vulcanology, have, independently and collectively, publicly denounced the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) February 2007 conclusion, that "Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th Century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse concentrations," specifically as this relates to industrial CO₂ emissions, as recently as the March 2007 production of "The Great Global Warming Swindle" documentary on Britain's Channel 4 television, among other publications, AND;

WHEREAS, long-term variation in climate change has been connected experimentally to geologic and astronomic cycles, including the shifting of the Earth's tectonic plates, obliquity of its axis, precession of its equinoxes, and changing eccentricity of its orbit, and also the frequency of sunspots, intensity and remission of solar wind, cosmic rays from other stars influencing cloud formation, and movement of our solar system through the Milky Way, thus overturning the linear statistical correlation used by the IPCC, of bubbles in ice cores to temperature, referenced repeatedly by former Vice President Al Gore, including in his widely distributed movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," AND;

WHEREAS, were Al Gore's 21 March 2007 recommendations to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and House Committee on Energy and Commerce

adopted as economic policy by Federal and State governments of the USA, the effects would literally tax out of existence the agro-industrial sector required for the creation and management of crucial resources, such as food, fresh water, electricity, medical isotopes, aluminum, cement, steel, ceramics, and plastics, all of which are required to sustain the growing populations of California, the USA, and the world, thus resulting in a human catastrophe tantamount to genocide against the lower 90% of income brackets of the world; however, the policy would temporarily increase the financial profits of domestic and international financiers who speculate in carbon futures, such as Al Gore.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party recognizes Al Gore as a leading United States spokesman for an economic policy premised on dubious science, which undermines the Constitutional obligations of representative government, and accelerates, at his personal profit, the deepening economic disparities between the rich and poor, AND;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party rejects the policy recommendations of Al Gore as disastrous to human existence, rejects the IPCC's argument that human industrially derived CO₂ emissions are a main driver of climate change as scientifically fraudulent, and reaffirms its commitment to the "New Deal" principles of Franklin D. Roosevelt, specifically the issuance of protected national credit to stimulate research and development within the agro-industrial sector, such as nuclear fusion, maglev transit systems, water desalination, and universal medical coverage, all as part of a solution to domestic and international economic injustices.

Oil Prices Fuelling the Bubble

The price at the pump is subsidizing a dying global financial system.

Why do the prices of crude oil and gasoline rise so sharply? The first line of defense for the high prices is supply and demand, but that argument is easily demolished by comparing the relationship between world oil consumption and oil prices. Consumption rises steadily, while prices spike dramatically. The next line of defense is that “the market” is responding to perceived potential problems, such as turmoil in oil-producing regions, bad weather, good weather, or any number of other alleged situations. This is where it starts to get interesting, since blaming the market explains both nothing and everything.

It explains nothing, because there is no such thing as “the market,” in the way that it is portrayed, namely the “Invisible Hand” of Adam Smith, which in some mysterious and independent way determines what the price ought to be. They might as well say the tooth fairy sets the price.

It explains everything, because the hand behind “the market”—the one you feel rummaging around in your pocket looking for your wallet—is neither invisible, nor mysterious, nor independent. It does exactly what the bankers and the oil cartel set it up to do, which is to allow the financial markets to manipulate the price of oil ever upward, with occasional drops to loot the non-insider speculators (remember Amaranth?), or to forestall political moves against this rape of the public. The price is what “the market” says it is, period.

Running up the price of oil has many advantages, if you are a member of the oil cartel or an international

banker. One need look no further than the record \$40 billion in profits reported by ExxonMobil last year, and the stellar profits reported by its sisters, to see the benefits to the cartel, but that is only part of the story. The banks, the hedge funds, and other financial institutions are also major players in the oil markets. A few years ago, an *EIR* investigation showed that the average barrel of oil traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) changed hands some 500 times between the time it was pumped out of the ground, and the time it was sold to its final buyer.

Given the explosion in energy futures trading on the Nymex in recent years, that 500 times may be “the good old days.” The volume of energy futures contracts traded on the Nymex has doubled since 2003, from 88 million that year, to 192 million in 2006. During that same period, the average price of oil has also doubled, from \$31 a barrel in 2003, to \$66 a barrel in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Anyone see a pattern there?

The rise in the price of oil is also good for the dollar, since the dollar is the currency of the oil markets. The higher the price goes, the more dollars needed, which in turn, supports the value of the dollar on international markets. That certainly pleases the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve.

The market-based approach to oil pricing is an outgrowth of the oil “crisis” hoaxes of the 1970s, which used Iran as the excuse for restructuring the global oil business, setting up the euro-dollar market, and replacement of

stable oil prices with a market-based system, much more amenable to manipulation by the imperial geopolitical forces behind the changes. Royal Dutch/Shell, and its bankers Rothschild and Lazard, played key roles in this scam, as did their agent Marc Rich. Not surprisingly, it was also Rothschild and Lazard that were the powers behind Enron, as the oligarchy attempted to do for our electricity prices what they had already done for oil.

By turning the price of oil into something set by financial markets rather than the physical economy of the petroleum business, oil has become a financial commodity more than a physical one, from the standpoint of the financial system. In that respect, sharp jumps in the price of oil could be considered indicators of the state of the bubble. When liquidity is badly needed, the price of oil is manipulated sharply upward, providing an influx of cash to the financial system. This functions as a sort of hidden tax, taking money from the public to bail out the bankers. When the crisis passes, the price of oil can be dropped a little, to give the consumers a chance to pay their mortgages and their credit cards, to keep consumer debt payments flowing.

The quick pace of the gasoline-price increases in recent weeks—with daily hikes and sometimes multiple hikes per day—reflects the hyperinflationary process under way in the financial markets, with ever-increasing demands for cash to plug the holes. This is not an oil issue, but a financial one, and the price at the pump is but a small part of the price we pay for tolerating this predatory system. That system is now collapsing, and what the bankers have planned to replace it will be much worse, unless we stop them. Otherwise, today will be the good old days.

Editorial

Goebbels Sends His Greetings

The warnings of Russian security experts concerning preparations by the Bush-Cheney Administration for war against Iran must be taken absolutely seriously, for Russia has well understood that Cheney's threats are not ultimately directed toward Iran, but toward Russia, China, and India, whose claim of national sovereignty is seen as an impediment to any idea of world empire. The world finds itself dangerously close to the brink of a new world war, which would develop as an asymmetric escalation following a military strike against Iran. The background for this war danger is the climaxing systemic crisis of the world financial system.

The representatives of the leading financial interests apparently believe that the big casino game can be played for a few more rounds, in which the small investors, looking for profits, can be enticed, in a new bubble, to invest in the CO₂ emissions certificate trade. At the same time, they would bring the world's population, apparently willingly, under a new, planned ecological dictatorship, to fulfill the demands of those such as British Tory leader David Cameron, who call for an 80% reduction of CO₂ emissions, as the answer to climate change, ostensibly caused by human activity. Practically, this would mean that industrial production would be strangled, leading to conditions which the greater part of mankind in the developing nations would not survive.

And how would the population be induced to agree to such an enormous fraud, and genocide? With the same methods that have always been used to manipulate the mass of the population: bread and circuses, and the collective hysteria which Goebbels induced in the sports arenas. This technique has been massively improved in the age of mass media dictatorship, or as William Paley, former head of CBS once expressed it, it is now possible to "out-Goebbel Goebbels"—to surpass Goebbels in his own methods.

This is in fact being planned by Al Gore, the chairman of the board of the Generation Investment Funds—which is heavily involved in trading CO₂ emissions certificates. He is organizing a mammoth 24-hour outdoor gathering for July 7, to be staged at seven locations on five continents simultaneously, with 120 rock and pop

stars, which is intended to draw a combined television and Internet audience of 2 billion (!) people. This "Live Earth Concert" is supposed to be the "symbolic opening shot of a worldwide change of consciousness," as Gore formulated it. Wow! Goebbels would faint from envy if he could see that! One gets a real foretaste of what Big Brother would look like in this planned global ecological dictatorship. Repeating history as a bad caricature: a modern Nuremberg Rally, simulcast on every channel, so to speak, but this time without Leni Riefenstahl.

We have to consider the fact that the rock and pop counterculture has become appreciably ever more morbid since Paley made his observation. For example, Madonna has taken pains to shoot a whole series of videos, before July 7, with content so thoroughly Satanic, that they rate as an expression of what the late Pope John Paul II termed the "Culture of Death." The trend in the so-called "youth" counterculture is toward emotional insanity and devastation so deep, as to destroy even the possibility of truly human feelings, such as agapic love.

After the failed French Revolution came to a close, Friedrich Schiller observed that a great moment had found a little people; that though the objective possibility of changing the course of history existed, the subjective moral possibility was lacking. Therefore, the development of this moral sensibility is the most urgent task of our time; and therefore, any political improvements can occur only out of this ennoblement. If these ideas were relevant for Schiller's time, they are even more relevant for us today.

The dramatist Gotthold Lessing had already observed, that in the education of men, everything is pernicious which subordinates man as an individual, into the mass. The idea of a "mass" of 2 billion people, where everyone from shrieking teens to aging Boomers with bald spots and pony tails, joining together in Dionysian convulsions, is somewhat spooky. One can only hope that the green specter will pass quickly. Fortunately, the LaRouche Youth Movement, for whom the question of a new humanist Renaissance is absolutely urgent, provides a counterpole.

—Helga Zepp-LaRouche