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e-mail: eirns@larouchepub.com

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(703) 777-9451

European Headquarters: E.I.R. GmbH, Postfach

Bahnstrasse 9a, D-65205, Wiesbaden, Germany

Tel: 49-611-73650

Homepage: <http://www.eirna.com>

e-mail: eirna@eirna.com

Director: Georg Neudecker

Montreal, Canada: 514-461-1557

Denmark: EIR - Danmark, Sankt Knuds Vej 11,

basement left, DK-1903 Frederiksberg, Denmark.

Tel.: +45 35 43 60 40, Fax: +45 35 43 87 57. e-mail:

eirdk@hotmail.com.

Mexico City: EIR, Ave Morelos #60-A, Col Barrio

de San Andres, Del. Azcapotzalco, CP 02240,

Mexico, DF. Tel: 5318-2301, 1163-9734, 1163-9735.

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From the Managing Editor

Looking ahead to 2013, the brightest star on the horizon is not actually a star, but a planet: Mars. The work that the LaRouche science team ("The Basement") has done over the past year has brought into sharp focus what needs to be done to tackle the challenges posed by eventual impact on the Earth by asteroids, meteors, and comets. Many presentations on this subject have appeared in *EIR* and at larouchepac.com in the past months.

Lyndon LaRouche poses the issue in both his *Feature* and his webcast of Dec. 7 (*Economics*). In the latter, he describes the breakthrough potential of the Curiosity landing on Mars. By installing sophisticated instrumentation on Mars, and between Mars and Venus, we will be able to get a much better map of the threat from "Near-Earth Objects," and figure out what to do about them.

"Curiosity itself is not a solution to this problem," he says, "but it's a necessary step in the process of trying to deal with it. So, therefore, we're now going to have to think about integrating Man into the functions of the Solar System, at least in the region between the Mars orbit and the Venus orbit. Because that's the area we've got to solve. So, all of these processes, therefore, come together in one thing: Mankind is now about to depart from the limitations on Earth habitation."

But how to get from here to there, in a world drawing daily closer to economic devastation and thermonuclear war? LaRouche provides answers in both of these articles, and elaboration appears elsewhere in the issue.

The *Feature*, "The End to 'Bail-Out'!", develops the history of the takedown of the U.S. economy since Harry Truman. The webcast excerpt is a summary of what LaRouche means by a "credit system," which has nothing to do with the plastic you carry in your wallet.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche addresses the threat of world war, denouncing the vote in the German Bundestag in favor of NATO's Patriot missile deployment in Turkey, and other insane actions by parliamentary "sleepwalkers." In *National*, we report President Obama's British-sponsored drumbeat for providing full military support to the Syrian rebels, under their al-Qaeda-linked leaders.

We continue coverage of speeches from the Schiller Institute's recent conference in Germany, concentrating on the crisis in Europe.

This is our last issue of 2012; the next issue will be that dated Jan. 4, 2013. We wish our readers a happy and productive 2013!

