

Will China Give Germany in 2014 The Opportunity It Missed in 1989?

by Alexander Hartmann

Nov. 30—Twenty-four years ago, on Nov. 30, 1989, Alfred Herrhausen, CEO of Deutsche Bank and close friend and advisor to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, was murdered in a professionally planned bombing. It later became known that Herrhausen had prepared a speech which he was to deliver a few days later, on Dec. 4, in New York. He wanted to put forward a downright revolutionary proposal, modeled on the German Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Reconstruction Finance Corporation), which had very effectively distributed the funds that Germany received after World War II under the Marshall Plan, to promote economic development. Herrhausen's proposal was to establish a development bank for Poland, financed by Western banks and linked to massive debt relief. This would have made possible an economic recovery for Poland.

This idea coincided in all essential aspects with the proposals of Lyndon LaRouche, who had forecast the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification one year earlier, on Oct. 12, 1988. LaRouche had proposed to make Poland a kind of model for a targeted development policy. He said:

“We shall act to establish Food for Peace agreements among the international community, with the included goal that neither the people of the Soviet bloc nor developing nations shall go hungry. . . .

“In response to our good faith in doing that for you, let us do something which will set an example of what can be done to help solve the economic crisis throughout the Soviet bloc generally.

“Let us say that the United States and Western Europe will cooperate to accomplish the successful rebuilding of the economy of Poland. There will be no interference in the political system of government, but

only a kind of Marshall Plan aid to rebuild Poland's industry and agriculture. . . .”

This example would have formed the basis for a development policy for the whole of Eastern Europe. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, LaRouche proposed building a high-speed rail system from Paris to Berlin and from Warsaw to Moscow, as a first concrete step, from which then very quickly developed the concepts of the Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle, the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and the World Land-Bridge.

What Happened Instead

What actually happened was, as we now know, unfortunately quite different. LaRouche was imprisoned for five years after a political show trial under the President George H.W. Bush, and Herrhausen was murdered. Instead of debt relief and a new Marshall Plan to finance economic recovery in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, these nations received the “shock therapy” treatment, which pushed the populations of this region into misery, and dramatically reduced life expectancy, by up to ten years.

At the same time, the West German government under Chancellor Kohl was forced to “buy” German reunification, by giving up the D-mark and its economic sovereignty.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche warned at that time, over and over, that it is not enough to build up the economy, but one must also overcome the materialistic world view that was predominant both in the East and West, and build on the best periods of the respective cultures. By imposing upon the bankrupt socialist system an equally bankrupt system of free trade, the West could probably plunder the region for a while, but sooner or later, there would be an even more powerful collapse, which



Alfred Herrhausen, CEO of Deutsche Bank, was assassinated in 1989, just before announcing a plan for development of Poland.



Lyndon LaRouche addresses a press conference in Berlin, Oct. 22, 1988. He called for making Poland a model for development of all of Eastern Europe.

End the Tyranny of an Economy that Kills!

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter [*Evangeli Gaudium*](#), took a stand on the “challenges of the world today,” and it is evident that he is referring in particular to precisely that misanthropic Western economic policy that is today literally walking over dead bodies. He writes:

“Just as the commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill’ sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say ‘thou shalt not’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills.

“How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. . . .

would destroy the entire Western world.

This is exactly what has been occurring since 2007, and the bank bailout policies of the Western governments have brought about, particularly in Southern Europe and the United States, exactly the same effect as the shock therapy that was imposed over 20 years ago on Eastern Europe and Russia. This may be seen clearly in the decline in life expectancy as a result of inflation, cuts in pensions, “savings” in the health system, etc. Whole strata of the population—the poor, the elderly, the sick—are considered “useless eaters” and are sacrificed to the financial system.

This is already the case, and one can hardly imagine how shamelessly and recklessly those responsible for this policy will proceed, when their house of cards of financial speculation, which has been shored up with such great effort and privation, completely falls apart. Informed circles in the financial world fear that such a crisis could occur before year-end, as soon as the conflict between the White House and Congress over the debt ceiling and the cuts in the Federal budget, which was only postponed a few weeks ago, breaks out again, as expected.



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Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, decried a “new tyranny,” a “thirst for power and possessions that knows no limits.”

“Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. . . . It is no longer simply about exploitation and oppression, but something new. Exclusion ultimately has to do with what it means to be a part of the society in which we live; those excluded are no longer society’s underside or its fringes or its disenfranchised—they are no longer even a part of it. The excluded are not the exploited but the outcast, the leftovers. . . .

“While the earnings of a minority are growing exponentially, so too

is the gap separating the majority from the prosperity enjoyed by those happy few. This imbalance is the result of ideologies which defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation. Consequently, they reject the right of states, charged

with vigilance for the common good, to exercise any form of control. A new tyranny is thus born, invisible and often virtual, which unilaterally and relentlessly imposes its own laws and rules....

“The thirst for power and possessions knows no limits. In this system, which tends to devour everything that stands in the way of increased profits, whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenseless before the interests of a deified market, which become the only rule.”

The Opportunity of 2014

In fact, today’s crisis, just like the crisis of 1989, provides a great opportunity: the possibility of overcoming this image of the world and of man. Those powers that have imposed their bestial philosophy on us in recent decades, are weaker than ever. The trans-Atlantic financial empire stands before its own “Fall of the Wall”—the financial and economic collapse. Now it is up to the “captive nations” of this financial empire to free themselves and take a different path.

It is certainly no coincidence that China at this moment is increasingly taking a leading role, offering the hand of friendship to other nations and showing them an alternative, since China learned something from the collapse of the Soviet Union. It has worked intensively with LaRouche’s concept of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, and is now working to implement it in the form of the “New Silk Road.”

What China’s Premier Li Keqiang suggested on his recent trip to Central and Eastern Europe acts as a mirror image and belated echo of the proposals of LaRouche and Herrhausen. In an open letter to the governments and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Li wrote:

“Most of the CEE countries see the need to expand and renew their railways, roads, ports, and other transport facilities. China is making rapid progress in the production of transport, particularly in the area of high-speed railways. We have strong construction ca-



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Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang offered Central and Eastern Europe joint construction of transport infrastructure projects.

capacity and high-quality equipment, and in China, the total length of the operational high-speed railways is now over 10,000 km. We are fully able to carry out transport infrastructure projects with high quality in the CEE countries.

“The power plants in the CEE countries also urgently need to be expanded. China has achieved world standards in the manufacture and installation of coal and hydro-power plants, including pumped storage hydro-power plants. We also have advanced technologies and world-class production capacity for the development of nuclear, wind, and solar energy. The systems that we offer are cheap and of high quality, which makes China an ideal partner for the

CEE countries.

“The CEE countries need financial assistance for the construction of infrastructure. China is willing to work with the CEE countries to investigate flexible ways to support a \$10 billion special fund for credit lines for cooperation between China and CEE countries, to support large projects in the CEE region. China is prepared to cooperate with the CEE countries to promote the establishment of branches of financial institutions in each others’ countries, to sign more agreements on the exchange and use of local currencies, and to create more facilities for the trade and investment activities of our businesses.

“I greet you, over the rivers and mountains.”

China thus offers Eastern Europe (and us in Germany) exactly what was denied 24 years ago by the West. Now it is up to us to take the outstretched hand that wants to help us to escape economic collapse. And the first step in this direction must be to free ourselves from the burden of speculative debt by introducing a two-tier banking system, modeled after the U.S. Glass-Steagall Act, and to limit the collapse of the financial empire’s investment banks.

Translated from German by Daniel Platt