

Start from Franklin Roosevelt's Overall Concept

by Dave Christie, LaRouche PAC Policy Committee

Wall Street is totally bankrupt, and it's coming down very fast now. The only solutions are pre-emptive ones that start from the re-installation of Franklin Roosevelt's Glass-Steagall law. *But*, if you don't present the overall solution as starting from the overall concept of Franklin Roosevelt's total, overall solution, and working down from there,—then you'll just wind up with chaos.

On a closely related question: Not only do we have to completely wipe out Wall Street, and have the government step in. We also have to establish real valuations, as against the current, and false, money-valuations. Then, we proceed from there, through the first difficult steps of reconstruction, and onwards into a self-sustaining and self-accelerating physical-economic recovery, and into a new era for mankind.

Wall Street is about to blow sky-high. Now we have to go back, in effect, to the beginning of the Twentieth Century, before the imposition of the money system, the system which was premised first of all on the great crime of President William McKinley's 1901 assassination. By now, we have reached the point under this money system, where there is no way whatsoever to measure true, intrinsic values. Now, Franklin Roosevelt's entire



Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), 32nd President of the United States

concept, as a totality, must be brought into play to have any hope of a solution.

At the same time, Russia has taken the initiative in Syria, and is pushing through a solution to the catastrophe Obama has inflicted on that country, and more generally. More and more, the whole world supports what Putin is doing there,—including many forces in the U.S. Absent this Russian initiative, Syria and Iraq would fail totally. Indeed, all of Obama's policies can produce nothing but failure.

His influence must be totally blocked; unless Obama is induced to back down, he will destroy everything. Obama is an ugly loser. Nothing must be done to encourage Obama; everything must be done to support Putin's leadership. Obama can only be allowed, at most, to make token gestures with no effect.

Look: The major European countries have turned against Obama's policy. Russia is leading the world against Obama's policy. Therefore, there's no need for Obama's approval. When you have Europe and Russia, there's no need for Obama's OK; he's almost stymied. Now, what we need is the 25th Amendment to finish off his baleful influence altogether.

—LaRouche PAC statement,
September 17, 2015

Sept. 22—The world will soon gather in Manhattan for the last week of September at the United Nations General Assembly. Obama will speak on September 28th, one month before the Seventieth Anniversary of the ratification of the United Nations Charter in October of 1945. However, the world will now no longer simply gather to listen to Obama's diktat, issued forth from his masters within the British Empire. Instead, the world will gather together as a new paradigm is being consolidated, led by the BRICS process, which has the very real potential to unleash a Renaissance for all of mankind, in the face of the crumbling edifice of the British Empire. As Lyndon LaRouche recently stated, the evil Bertrand Russell's system of world economy is now doomed.

In that light, I recently had the opportunity to discuss the importance of Franklin Roosevelt with Phil Rubinstein, a long-time leader within the international movement of Lyndon LaRouche. The article that follows will contain excerpts from that discussion on the importance of understanding what Franklin Roosevelt did to combat the world outlook of Bertrand Russell.

Rubinstein began the discussion by elaborating on Franklin Roosevelt's intent to dismantle the British Empire. Roosevelt's leadership was unique in the Twentieth Century, and from the very beginning he moved to crush Wall Street, and show the American people its rot and corruption.

FDR versus Wall Street

Rubinstein: In reflecting on the destruction of the Twentieth Century, it's clear that Franklin Roosevelt really represents the only leadership, really the only President of the United States, to successfully combat, up to a point, the destruction of culture, the destruction of civilization through the wars that have typified the Twentieth Century, and have continued into the Twenty-First Century in an even worse way. In particular, he took on the British Empire, which had become, in fact, an "empire of the mind."

There are a number of things you could touch upon that created the situation into which FDR came, concerning the Great Depression, and the build-up to World War II, which was in many ways a continuation of World War I. But the fact is, he was unique in

his leadership. Of course, we've had other leaders who weren't terrible, but in many ways they were unable to act, or were limited in their actions. Kennedy, of course, had his life and presidency cut short. Others, perhaps, such as Eisenhower, were constrained in terms of their own limitations—there were decent Presidents, but no one really led the United States consistently against the British rule and essentially saved the United States; saved civilization in fact.

Since FDR's death, the British Empire has had a nearly seamless cultural takeover of the United States, and the transatlantic world in general, that now brings us to the final phase of collapse—which, of course, brings the threat of war.

The point we must consider today, is that we cannot simply try to repeat what FDR did; that's not possible. We're in a different period, and if anything, the situation we face today is far worse. But we can understand the principle that FDR stood for, and that he fought successfully for, which allowed us to defeat fascism, and had us on the road to something totally different concerning his vision of the United Nations as a platform for the development of relations among nations—a kind of orientation of mankind toward common economic development. But he didn't live to see that through, and his successors weren't up to the task, so we're now faced with the threat of extinction.

Roosevelt was very clear. He said we didn't need Wall Street; we'd be better off without it. From day one, he took on Wall Street—really from before day one, as New York Governor, and then in his campaign for the Presidency—he said that the government represents the interests of the population, and that people have priority

over Wall Street, and in fact, we didn't need Wall Street, since it was their speculative financial junk that destroyed a good part of the world in the 1920s, and into the Great Depression. And that is an important message for many Americans who are simply terrified of Wall Street.

The Pecora Commission

Rubinstein went on to discuss the importance of Ferdinand Pecora, and his commission that sent Wall Street criminals to jail. This laid the groundwork for the ensuing passage of Glass-Stea-



Ferdinand Pecora, Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking and Currency during its investigation of Wall Street under Franklin Roosevelt.

gall, after the American people saw the abuses they endured under these “high priests of the Temple of Finance.” This is an especially important message for all those Americans today, and their political leaders, who accept the idea that Wall Street is too-big-to-fail, and too-big-to-jail.

Rubinstein: What is important to remember is that there was a predecessor to the Pecora Commission—there was already an investigation of Wall Street—but it did nothing; it failed completely. The reason, of course, had to do with the fact that Hoover was a Wall Street backer, and the people who were appointed had no intention of following through and

prosecuting Wall Street, to make it clear that Wall Street was the problem—the likes of J.P. Morgan, William Mitchell of National City, and so forth. Pecora was then brought in, and then Roosevelt was elected, which gave Pecora the go-ahead to fully prosecute Wall Street; and he did.

These guys were convicted, and they served terms—they were humiliated. It was clear that they were the problem, that Roosevelt was not going to put up with them, and Pecora had the courage to go after them. Had it not been for Roosevelt, we would have seen the same gutless cowardice we see today.

The jailing of Mitchell, and the humiliation of Morgan, is a total contrast to the *carte blanche* that Wall Street has been given over the recent years, explicitly by the Obama-Holder combine, which said that Wall Street rules, and is more important than the rest of the nation. They’re too-big-to-fail; they’re too big to prosecute.

But that was not Roosevelt’s view, as he famously said in his inauguration that we would chase the money changers out of the temple; but most especially, he focused over and over again, on the reality that the speculative financial activities of Wall Street were not in the interest of the nation. He basically took the Pecora Commission—as he took the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, as he took the Federal Reserve,—and he forced them, and he used them, not just to circumvent Wall Street, but to replace Wall Street, and to replace a monetarist system, forcing these institutions into subservience of the nation.



National Archive

From Day One of his Presidency, FDR set out to rebuild and save the nation. Here, CCC workers grading a rural road ca. 1935.

FDR versus the British Empire

For these actions, Franklin Roosevelt was called a “traitor to his class.” This could be no more clearly stated in his first inaugural address, when he said that the economic situation and the unemployment caused by Wall Street, must be treated as “we would treat the emergency of war,” and spoke of “broad executive power to wage war against this emergency, as great as the power given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe.” Rubinstein elaborated further on his war-time mobilization, and showed that Roosevelt was very clear on who the enemy was—the British Empire.

Rubinstein: It’s important to see that this is Roosevelt from day one of his Administration, all the way through the 1930s, where he basically set the conditions for saving U.S. industry, saving U.S. agriculture, saving the labor force through the Works Progress Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and mobilizing credit through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. He set the conditions under which we basically created the greatest industrial economic machine in human history, adding to it certain rapid scientific development.

At the same time, he opposed Wall Street and their policies from day one, emphatically including his conflicts with Winston Churchill over the British Empire, and through his Bretton Woods Conference, where Roosevelt and his delegation attacked the idea of the imperial preferences in trade in the Commonwealth, as well as in his call for the independence of India.

So he was an enemy of the British Empire and monetarism from the beginning to the end; it was a unifying

characteristic of his entire Presidency—fair trade, not free trade; the Good Neighbor Policy; his conception of the United Nations. These are all part of his anti-monetarist, anti-empire Presidency. And, indeed, he was the most advanced representative of the American System.

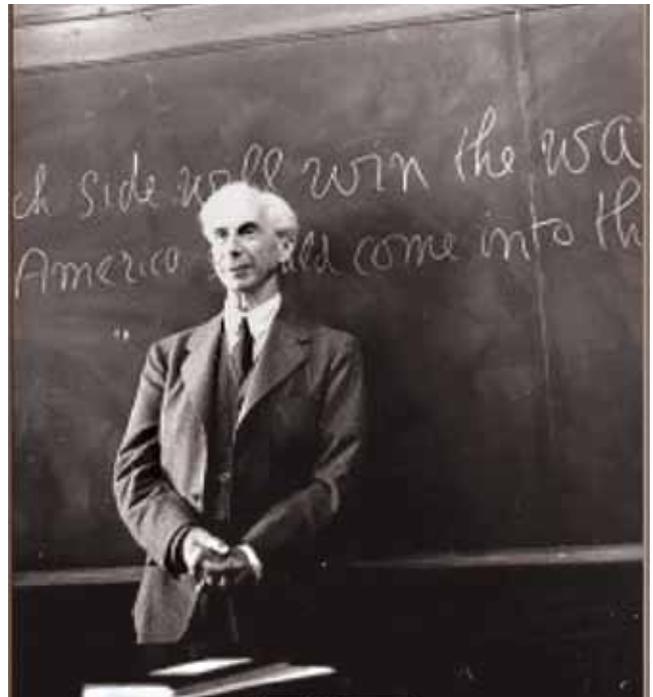
Battle for the Mind

As Lyndon LaRouche has stressed in the recent period, it was after the British directed assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 that the monetarist system was ushered in. In addition to identifying Bertrand Russell as “the most evil man of the Twentieth Century,” LaRouche has also pointed to Russell as the font of intellectual garbage that has become the basis for that monetarist system. It is immoral, precisely because it systematically denies the future, and the development of creativity, which is the basis for the productive power of our labor force. With no future conception, any system of society and economy will be relegated to the stagnant swamp of deductive systems. Rubinstein has written articles discussing the role of Russell. He also discussed his grasp of what Franklin Roosevelt did to counter this world outlook.

Rubinstein: I think this is an important issue to review in terms of our efforts to educate and organize people, as we create a Renaissance. You can also say that Roosevelt is one of the remaining products of the Renaissance which created the American Revolution, which largely has been put into the background by the British Empire.

The example to use here is Bertrand Russell, and to a degree, David Hilbert—what is it that they did? I think it’s interesting. It is roughly about 1900 when Hilbert put forward the idea of axiomatizing physics. Russell was already working on this project; he was attacking Riemann and Leibniz, but the real point was to attack the human mind, the creativity of the human mind. This is particularly reflected in the human mind’s ability to act on the future, to create a future which otherwise would not come into existence.

Any system, any economic system, that is rooted in a given set of scientific principles that are utilized in the technology, that’s rooted in a given sense of traditional culture, is going to run up against its limits—the limits of the existing science and technology, the limits of the traditional culture. You won’t have a population that’s capable of creating or acting or thinking of acting on the future, but instead, one which simply believes that its task is to repeat the past, and that we will not have the



British Empire representative Bertrand Russell, shown here lecturing in 1939 at the University of California, Los Angeles, laid out the “philosophy” of Wall Street.

capability to make the necessary scientific breakthroughs which represent discovery of principles otherwise unknown at the time.

This discovery of principle is the basis for the development of human activity and human economy. Therefore, the core of human activity is creativity, expressed in being able to create a future existence that goes into future generations, not just the next generation, but, in a certain sense, you’re preparing future generations, so that they themselves think in terms of the future. So you establish creative development as the core of value, which is expressed in the productivity of labor.

Russell, along with Hilbert and some of these others, but Russell, in particular, says that truth can be axiomatized. They created formal system and a set of axioms, all modelled on Euclid—exactly what Euclid and Aristotle did, even with the prior knowledge of the Greek renaissance—to attempt to create a formal system that would then be the limit of knowledge.

Russell’s ‘Empire of the Mind’

At this point in the discussion, I raised the fact that both Russell and Hilbert were involved in launching the International Congress for the Unity of Sciences in 1935, during the beginning of FDR’s Presidency. This

was an outgrowth of the Ernst Mach Society. Ernst Mach was famous for his “suspicion of anything metaphysical,” and of course, what could be further beyond the senses than the future itself? These were the figures behind statistics, which is the foundation of the thinking (or non-thinking) of Wall Street, where there is no sense of the future, just gambling and playing the markets. Einstein made a very clear attack on this crowd when he said, “God does not play dice.”

Rubinstein: Exactly. Russell attempted to produce an axiomatic system, based on the logic of arithmetic. But it wasn’t just that; because their view was that all scientific measurement (effectively, it was called real numbers, and so forth), could be axiomatized. And therefore if you axiomatized arithmetic, you essentially formalized the entirety of scientific knowledge.

You might accidentally find yourself running into some new capability that you can incorporate as a new axiom—but essentially truth, the certainty of truth, is embodied in logical deduction from a given axiomatic system, which in this case an axiomatic system that was meant to be the mathematical model of everything. This is absolutely the basis of information theory; it’s the whole model that a lot of people have experienced as deductive and inductive science. You simply catalogue experiences, you get the measurements of those experiences, you make a generalization, and then you deduce some prediction from it.

Now, nowhere in this is there a creation of a new idea; or really, what’s more important, a new principle—a universal principle, like electromagnetism, like what Kepler does with his development of the solar system. Universal principles are what give you reality.

One of the most immoral things about Russell—and this is what Roosevelt fought—is the idea that you can’t create the future; which means that you have no moral responsibility. It’s immoral if human beings cannot use the creative capabilities to act jointly to bring a future that’s required into existence, and find the path and new principle that will allow you to do it. The point is that they’ve taken the mind and the morality out of humanity. Without the ability to create the future, all you can do is repeat the past. And if your standard of truth is formal deduction, then there is no content; all you’re doing is formally rearranging symbols and drawing out something that’s already there, at best.

Now the thing to realize is that the entirety of Wall Street is based on this. What’s free trade? What’s the free market? It’s to not think; cognition is actually not

only unnecessary, but a bad intrusion into reality—the human mind is somehow an external feature that shouldn’t be involved. You should act on your desires, your fears, which can thereby be used to price financial instruments.

How do we price them? We make certain kinds of bets on what people are willing to pay financially for certain pleasures and to avoid certain pains. Ultimately, then, the whole issue is the growth of monetary value. You have money making money. This is all based on mathematical models, what are called algorithms,—mechanical, deductive systems, which are largely based on statistical preferences. And that’s why you have rocket scientists on Wall Street today.

This was done on a lower level in the 1920s, although the principle was the same. This is what Roosevelt was fighting. People were betting on the value of stocks; they were betting on the value of futures and indexes; and this grew into the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s and into what we now call derivatives—you can bet on what is going to be the Dow Jones index 30 days from now. So you have trillions and trillions of dollars in this area, and from a monetarist standpoint, that’s value! Roosevelt knew that this had absolutely no value. Of course, today, we have almost the *reductio ad absurdum* of this concept of value.

A Worse Challenge Today

This *reductio ad absurdum* that Rubinstein mentioned, has probably cost the American people far more than the \$23 trillion that former TARP Inspector General, Neil Barofsky, cited in his Congressional testimony as the potential cost of the Federal bailouts after 2007-08. These bailouts are symptomatic of the disease of Wall Street, and are a part of the economic crisis, but they are not the only part. In addition to the moral and intellectual rot created by Russell, there is the destruction of the labor force, which makes the recovery far more difficult today than in Roosevelt’s time. Rubinstein went on to discuss this matter.

Rubinstein: You have to realize that at that time, 25 percent, or more, of the American population was still on farms. Today, it’s 1-2 percent. Then, these farms still had a certain productive capability, so people could go back to their farms. Many people had relatives who were on farms. It is also the case that the U.S. was only a dozen or so years from the World War I build-up, so a great deal of the industry had not been degraded over a twenty, thirty, almost a forty-year period of degradation



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An abandoned blast furnace in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

of the entire manufacturing facility, as it has been today.

New economic sectors were on the rise, such as the beginning of airplane production, whatever its limitations. We're in a situation now where we've lost a good deal of our aerospace sector. We've lost our automobile industry; it virtually shut down in the first decade of this century. LaRouche was engaged in a major effort to save the auto industry because of its machine tool capability—we've lost all of that. We've basically given up our space program which was the science driver of the '50s and '60s, and so on and so forth.

So we're much worse off. Indeed the economy has virtually minuscule productivity relative to the financial values that are estimated at 1.5-2 quadrillion dollars; my view is that, in principle, it's an infinite amount, because they roll these instruments over, they pile new leverage on top of it, and it just keeps expanding. It has no connection to any real production.

The global Transatlantic system that has been hegemonic up to the present, is dead. You see this in Europe; you see this in Southern Europe; you see it in the United States—in the healthcare, in the education; this system is fundamentally a dead system. And we're at the point where people have to recognize that they don't need Wall Street; and that what they think they are worried about, losing their nest egg, is complete folly—they've lost it already. We saw that in 2007-2008.

We're seeing it again. As soon as people get to the point where they have to use their so-called monetary

value in the stock market or other financial investments, it's not there! It doesn't exist, and it won't exist. And this is a tough one—a monetarist system means that you can build value on nothing; and that's exactly what they have done.

The 1900 Turning Point

Rubinstein returned to the assassination of McKinley, and the attempt by Russell and Hilbert to create the "empire of the mind" to crush the emerging political economy known as the American System of Hamilton and Lincoln, that was blossoming

throughout the world, especially in Eurasia.

Rubinstein: I think that the 1900s is not just Russell and Hilbert. Russell is an extremely important figure in this, because he really legitimizes the entirely anti-scientific insane economic outlook, but it really is an economic policy. Most of economic policy of the Twentieth Century roots itself in this kind of mathematical model—game theory and so forth.

Now, at the same time, what is this? This is the British Empire. Remember, Russell and his whole family was part of the British Aristocracy. Even more than that, Russell took it upon himself to play the leading role in the epistemological domination of this anti-human, anti-creative outlook and conception of human activity, which essentially reduced human beings to an animal or a machine. This is why you have so much confusion, increasingly in the Twentieth Century: "What are we... are we merely machines, do we know better than an animal?" This is all Russell.

But, the thing to keep in mind is that this is all part of the effort to extend the existence of the British Empire, to extend its reach. The British Empire had already come to an internal collapse at the end of the Nineteenth Century. Across the globe, you had forces moving in the direction of industrial development modelled on the United States; you had it in Russia; you had it in Germany under Bismarck who was removed in 1890; you had some figures of this sort in France; you had it in China under Sun Yat Sen.



An artist's rendition of Teddy Roosevelt's charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.

Prince Albert, who became Edward VII, took upon himself the task of extending the reach of the British Empire. A big part of this led into World War I. A big part of this was the United States rolling back, effectively, the American Revolution; you had the Confederacy, and the resurrection of the Confederacy. But this culminated in the assassination of McKinley, who was the last representative of some of the better features—Lincoln, Grant, and others of the Nineteenth-century American System.

McKinley was assassinated through British networks, and what came in? Teddy Roosevelt. Now, Teddy Roosevelt viewed the United States as part of the English-speaking British Empire. For the first time, whatever all the flaws were—you had animals like Jackson, killing Indians and pro-slavery, and so on; you had some Wall Street figures like Van Buren, and you had confederates—but it's with Teddy Roosevelt that you have the idea that the United States is really part of the British Empire.

You know, famously, his uncle on his mother's side was a figure within Confederate intelligence, his mother was an active Confederate supporter, and he was a supporter of the British Imperial outlook. This was his claim to fame,—as in San Juan Hill and the whole story. He remained a dominant figure beyond his Presidency into the 1910s, where he was big advocate of supporting the British in the World War I.

Then we had Woodrow Wilson, who followed

Teddy Roosevelt. Wilson was an apologist for the Confederacy. Members of his family were hardcore Confederate activists, his history of the United States was an apology for the Confederacy, and he himself was a proponent of the British Imperial outlook. He rooted himself in the outlook of some of the leading late Eighteenth Century British thinkers, and he of course brought in the Ku Klux Klan, and infamously screened “The Birth of a Nation,” which was a Confederate propaganda film, at the White House.

What you got then,—and it's often taken as a coherent series of events,—was the FBI, the Federal Reserve, and Wilson the Confederate. This was all one process of undermining us, and really, and drawing the United States,

through Wall Street, through the hegemony of Wall Street, into an extended British Empire. And the British have thought this way: the extension of the Empire into the Commonwealth.

The truth of the matter is, through most of the Twentieth Century, other than the period of Roosevelt himself (FDR), this has been dominant. And by the 1970s, it had essentially taken over. You had Truman, who was a worshipper of Winston Churchill, and Churchill was an Empire man. The only thing I can say is that Churchill was less sophisticated than Russell. Russell was really rooted in the idea of the Empire, and had little or no loyalty to a place, even Britain. Churchill was a British Empire man, and that clash came out during World War II. Russell supported the Nazis until 1940.

FDR versus Churchill

Franklin Roosevelt had numerous brawls with Winston Churchill about the nature of man. Roosevelt's son, Elliott, wrote a book called “As He Saw It,” which gave an intimate picture of this fight, perhaps best encapsulated in an exchange where Roosevelt was discussing the need for development of poorer nations. Roosevelt referenced India, the Jewel of the British Crown, and caught the ire of Churchill, to which Roosevelt responded, “I can't believe that we can fight a war against fascist slavery, and at the same time not work to free people all over the world from a backward colonial policy.”

Roosevelt's passionate fight against empire was at

the core of his idea behind the United Nations and all of the related institutions that would later come out of the Bretton Woods Conference. Those institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have obviously become instruments of the British Empire today. However, the upcoming UN General Assembly can be an opportunity to actually carry out the intention of Roosevelt, which, in part, is being carried forward with the BRICS process.

Rubinstein: I think this was Roosevelt from day one, until the day he died in the presidency. He was asked soon before he died—the British knew he was going to die. He had polio, and other severe medical problems that were known to the British, and I think they outlasted him. They put tremendous pressure on him in the 1944 Convention to get rid of Wallace as his Vice-Presidential candidate, and we ended up with Truman; Roosevelt had simply hoped to live through his fourth term.

Soon before this occurred, when he got back from Yalta, or maybe earlier, he was asked what he wanted to do after the war,—to which he responded that he would not have minded becoming the Secretary General of the United Nations. Now, the basic idea that he had was to use the United Nations as a means of working through the necessary development for the colonial world. His view was that we had to end the idea of colonies. Our whole relationship to countries like Vietnam, Indonesia, Iran, Ghana, what became the Non-Aligned Movement—you could go through a whole list—was completely different under Roosevelt. His intention was to liberate these countries and develop them, starting with massive infrastructure projects: rail, water management, etc. He was famous as an expert in geography, and a lot of this was what allowed him to create a vision of development, infrastructural development, which would be a platform to improve these economies, and the United Nations would be a platform for discussing this and bringing new nations into existence.

Now, that was brought to Bretton Woods. As I said, one of the big points was the idea of a universal currency by Keynes. But the big point was they were not going to give up the imperial preferences. What did that



Library of Congress

One of FDR's clashes with Churchill was over FDR's vision for post-war institutions such as the United Nations. Here, the two are shown aboard the USS Quincy prior to the Yalta conference with Stalin in 1945.

mean? Free Trade did not apply to the Commonwealth, so that, for example, the different colonies, or former colonies that were members of the Commonwealth, had to buy preferentially, British-produced goods, or goods within the Empire. So, the Free Trade rules and constraints would not apply to the Commonwealth and the colonies. This was rejected by Roosevelt's representative Harry Dexter White. Of course, this was not the free trade that people talk about today. Now, it means that everyone has to succumb to the markets,—versus what Roosevelt called “fair trade,” where developing countries would be able to protect their development of industries and agriculture, and so forth.

Today, this is now being brought forward by China, India, with the collaboration with Russia, South Africa, Brazil, as a new development, or what Xi Jinping and the Chinese call a “win-win” strategy; this is what Putin has identified himself with increasingly.

Of course, the other aspect of this, that goes to the Putin side of this, is that Roosevelt, like Eisenhower, like MacArthur, like many of the military men, recognized, that with the sheer destructive power, represented in WWII, almost by itself,—let alone with the addition of the atomic weapons used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki,—they recognized that general warfare, of the type we saw in World War I and World War II, or the threat of that kind of warfare, was a threat to the existence of the human species. Roosevelt knew it, and

therefore he saw the United Nations as a place where these kinds of problems could be worked out.

Compare that to the British view, which used the conflicts to keep these nations at bay and undeveloped. And this was immediately seen in the Korean War, in the way in which nations were divided, and in the whole way in which the Soviets were treated. You see it up to this day. Roosevelt wasn't a believer in Communism, nor did he think that the Soviets were simply to be trusted,—he simply recognized that you had to develop a relationship with the Soviet Union, and he saw that he had the same problem with the British Empire, only worse.

His view was that we had to have the United Nations, we had to bring in the Soviets, on an equal basis. And of course, very interestingly, Roosevelt wanted China in the Big Four. You had the Big Three,—the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union,—and he insisted on bringing in China, even though of course as a military power, or an economic power, it didn't compare. But he saw China as a great nation, just as he had argued for the independence of India, and that the future of the human species depended on bringing China and India as great nations into the overall dialogue,—and that was his view of the United Nations. Churchill and the British were totally against bringing China in. In effect, the British and their allies in the United States supported Mao.

So this is a totally different picture of the world,—really, you could say, in the American intellectual tradition. This is where you see whatever value there is in the American history of the American System. This is a profound idea,—this is why the best way to look at it, is to look at what Roosevelt represents, versus what Russell represented, what Edward VII represented: an anti-human outlook, which we see in the House of Windsor today in the idea of reducing the population of the world under the green policy. Roosevelt's idea of a green policy was to plant three billion trees, and they changed the weather and ended the dustbowl—by development.

A New Renaissance

Rubinstein then went on to discuss the importance of the cultural development promoted by not only Franklin Roosevelt, but especially the work of his wife, Eleanor.

Rubinstein: It's a funny thing, because in their own way, Lyn and Helga have made the point that the only way to organize now, is from the standpoint of a new renaissance of taking on the frontier problems—like



FDR Library

Civilian Conservation Corp workers planting trees in 1933.

the role of the galaxy in the development of the planet earth, the fundamental issues of science, and culture. I hate to even make that distinction between “science” versus “culture.” They are leading in the development of Classical music, using the choruses to create the conditions under which we can produce composers, and the role of various people in keeping that alive.

Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor, even given whatever limitations they may have had, were certainly very keen to the idea that you needed to maintain an orientation to developing culture. Eleanor Roosevelt did extremely important work on the civil rights question. She was a great supporter during the New Deal for the efforts of the government to finance music, drama, and the plastic arts. Some of it may not have been up to the level of classical culture, but, frankly, some of it showed some potential and some promise. There is much to be said about the fact that one of the problems Roosevelt had was with the southern Democrats, as they shut down much of the efforts in the arts, but I think both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt at least had a sense of this,—and of course, Eleanor was completely dedicated to working with African-American artists,—Marian Anderson, Paul Robeson and others,—and she herself was persecuted by the same forces in the government that went after civil rights leaders.

So you have to really look at that as part of the package. I think it's important to see how singular this all was, and then of course, in the same vein,—I mean the whole point of the New Deal,—what was the credit policy of the new Deal based on? This is the same economic policy as Lyn's. Lyn has a more developed version. We have to deal with some international problems: a global Glass

Steagall, a financial system that works across international borders in a much more positive way and so forth,—but, let’s give Roosevelt his due.

He had the Four Corners, the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Hoover Dam and of course the Grand Coulee, and just one good example is his building of this infrastructure, a lot of which was predicated on spreading electrical power throughout the country. In this case of hydroelectric power, that was the basis for the whole development of the aluminum industry in the Northwest and the expansion of the aerospace industry.

Then you had the TVA, which became a global model. And this was the first and maybe the only case of real industrial development in the southern states, stretching into northern Alabama and even northern Mississippi. And these are the kinds of projects that elevate the population, that give them the basis in education, and they were models for China, for Egypt and others, in the spread of this idea and this kind of activity. The Chinese openly modeled the Three Gorges Dam project on what they saw in the TVA and other such examples.

Then, of course, you have the reality, as Lyn has mentioned himself very recently, that, let’s say, the critical moment in his life was the end of WWII. He had served, as 16-17 million Americans had, and Roosevelt died. And Lyn was in a position to discuss with some of the other GIs what the future would bring. They came to him. And Lyn said, “We have to have a devotion to the same principles that Roosevelt represented, and to fight the same fight.”

And I think that Lyn and Helga,—Lyn obviously being of the age,—have committed themselves to that. And I think we have uncovered, in a sense, the deeper fight that Roosevelt was involved in, in this battle against the British Empire.

Here we are today. The British Empire is really dead. It cannot support a population. Wall Street is rotten to the core. The City of London is the enemy of the human species. The empire of the mind that they built, not through some conspiracy of brainwashing in some sense of controlling your neural networks, but the empire of the mind typified by Russell, and all of this garbage that’s been brought in. It’s all dead. It struck me, when Jeb Bush was asked who he would put on the



Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History
Eleanor Roosevelt played a major role in arranging contralto Marian Anderson’s historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial on April 9, 1939.

ten dollar bill to replace Hamilton, and he said Margaret Thatcher. Now, that’s pretty far gone.

Closing Thoughts

Rubinstein: You come back to Lincoln. Given where we are now, and as I said, you have the moves by Putin to try to outflank the efforts to create war in Ukraine, war that could be nuclear, a serious threat of nuclear war. You have the effort to outflank this in the Middle East, but also in relation to the BRICS and China. Our task really is a serious one. We can have a lot of fun with it.

We have to break Americans from this insane commitment to Wall Street, to a monetary outlook on the world, to forgetting that we are human beings, that the value lies in human beings, in elevating the creative powers of human beings, in creating the conditions where more and more human beings are being given the opportunity to activate their creative powers, to extend those powers further into the universe, to carry out a mission, which is to be creative, as we were created to be.

I have no problem in saying that we’ve evolved to be creative, because creativity is what’s built into the universe, and we have to give up the idea we are somehow creatures of money, and we have to give up our ability to think in the marketplace, with some mechanical set of statistical rules. We have to elevate ourselves and elevate our fellow citizens, so they don’t degrade themselves to dance to the tune of the moneymakers.