

A Time for Truth: For Argentina and the U.S.A.

by Cynthia R. Rush

On April 2, in the Palomar district of Buenos Aires province, Argentine President Néstor Kirchner delivered a momentous speech before an audience of military personnel and political leaders, commemorating the 24th anniversary of the April 2, 1982 effort to take back the Malvinas Islands, which Great Britain had illegally seized in 1833. What made his speech so extraordinary is that he identified, in a way not done previously, the synarchist financial forces that used the corrupt and cowardly military junta that took power in a 1976 coup, to drag the nation into a ruinous war with Great Britain and NATO, at the same time decimating the economy. This is “ultramontane nationalism,” he said.

Aside from the powerful impact the April 2 speech will almost certainly have on Argentina—Kirchner’s popularity now stands at 87%—and on Southern Cone neighbors such as Chile, which underwent similar processes in the 1970s, the Argentine President’s forceful remarks will most definitely make Lazard Frères banker Felix Rohatyn and his cronies, extremely unhappy. Kirchner’s remarks are a little too close for comfort to what American statesman Lyndon LaRouche has been saying for some time.

In an April 5 commentary, LaRouche pointed out that Néstor Kirchner’s moving speech doesn’t just pertain to Argentina. It is, in fact, a message to those in the United States who have been similarly and fraudulently dragged into the disastrous war in Iraq *by the very same synarchist forces* that victimized Argentina! To best understand what is happening to those thousands of patriotic young American men and women in honest military service in Iraq, LaRouche added, carefully study what the Argentine President said about the Malvinas War. “The time for truth” has arrived, LaRouche noted.

The Same Cast of Characters

How did it work in Argentina? Then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and the synarchist bankers today represented by Dick Cheney’s godfather George P. Shultz and banker Rohatyn, firmly backed the March 24, 1976 military coup against Isabel Perón—just as they had welcomed Gen. Augusto Pinochet’s bloody September 1973 coup against Chile’s elected President Salvador Allende. When Kissinger was warned that a “bloodbath” would likely ensue after the coup, his response was, in effect, “bring it on.” The killings, kidnappings, and torture carried out by the Nazi Operation Cóndor enforced the free-market looting of the country imposed by Finance Minister José Martínez De Hoz, the British-trained free-marketeer who ran in David Rockefeller’s banking circles.

As Kirchner explained in a March 24 speech, at the Campo de Mayo military base to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1976 coup, the “powerful economic interests” represented by De Hoz, were the ones that “knocked on the barracks door,” and thus the coup “cannot be reduced to a phenomenon in which just the Armed Forces were the protagonists.” Military might had to be used because it was “the only way they could impose a political and economic project to replace the process of industrialization that substituted imports with a new model of financial valuations and structural adjustment.” The “brain” of that model “had a name, one which we must never erase from our memory, and that is José Alfredo Martínez de Hoz.”

As LaRouche noted, the only difference between Argentina’s military junta and today’s George W. Bush government, is that the junta—as bad as it was—was morally superior to Bush. But the cast of synarchist characters is the same. George

Shultz, phony “Democrat” Rohatyn, and Cheney’s neo-conservative cabal see the Iraq War as the instrument to advance their imperial agenda of permanent warfare and economic globalization that will rip apart the institutions of the sovereign nation-state. The deaths, maiming, and psychological trauma suffered by young patriotic Americans in a meat-grinder war, mean nothing to them. It’s all part of the “war on terror.”

When the junta decided on the Malvinas landing, it was with the understanding that the United States would look the other way and not ally with Margaret Thatcher’s Britain. State Department officials had not-so-secretly promised this to junta President General Leonidas Galtieri. But when the action sparked a continentwide nationalist mobilization in support of Argentina, whose passion threatened to loosen the City of London and Wall Street’s grip on Ibero-America, Kissinger and his banker allies joined with Thatcher and NATO to crush Argentina.

Cowardly Generals, a Valiant People

In his April 2 speech, President Kirchner bluntly stated that the junta didn’t act out of a sense of mission to defend Argentina’s rightful historic claim to the Malvinas. That of course remains “one of our great national causes” and will never be abandoned, he affirmed. The dictators instead fraudulently exploited an issue deeply felt by all Argentines, to save their own skins. They were thoroughly discredited by years of brutal repression and destruction of the nation’s industrialization process, overseen by De Hoz.

This “irresponsible” decision to go to war exposed the cowardly generals’ inability to fight on a real battlefield, the President said. But their criminal actions must never be confused with the patriotic and valiant response of the Argentine people, and the heroism of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who were sent into battle, outnumbered and ill-equipped, Kirchner emphasized. “They did not cry. They held our flag high with dignity and honor,” and 649 of them gave their lives for their country.

In a real sense, he said, the Malvinas War “is our fatherland’s altar to the heroism of its people.” There is no shame in being defeated by a big power, Kirchner said. “What mattered was the dignity of those who fought, and gave their all.” What was shameful, he added, was how soldiers were treated when they returned home, where they were ignored and left to suffer in silence—some even driven to suicide out of a sense of despair. Today, he added, the nation has the obligation to lovingly embrace these veterans. “They are our contemporary heroes.”

No one should absolve the state of its responsibility in what happened, Kirchner said. But he pointedly asked, “What about the economic groups, and those who backed the dictatorship?” Did they ever “come out to support our soldiers when they returned from battle? The state was irresponsible, but who propped up that state?” The civilians and “economic



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Chilean President Michelle Bachelet and Argentine President Néstor Kirchner. Bachelet’s visit to Argentina on March 21-22 was intended to forge a “strategic alliance” with Kirchner, she said. “We have very similar goals in the area of foreign policy and integration.”

power” stood at the junta’s side, “encouraging ultramontane nationalism . . . but when the worst happened, they disappeared; they weren’t there to aid the fallen or those who fought for the nation.”

Argentines must be very clear on what happened, the President warned, because history cannot remain a blur. Directly addressing the many “beloved” military officers, soldiers, and Malvinas veterans in the audience, Kirchner charged that “it was those cowardly generals who dishonored our Army and our people.” And, he continued, there were those who thought they could clear their consciences by creating the post-war “de-Malvinization” process, to erase the patriotic sentiment the war had unleashed, and the noble sacrifice of those who fought. Argentines, and Argentina, became international pariahs, as its national military institutions were nearly dismantled.

Now, he said, “we must rebuild our self-esteem, not to repeat the past, but to face our future with ideals and convictions.” Never again, the President solemnly declared, must “ultramontane nationalism” be allowed to take the place of “patriotic and democratic nationalism based on the will of the people.” Argentines must always be clear on what happened in 1982 and in the years that followed, he warned. Why? Because many of those same financial interests “continue to be active in Argentina” today, and are still trying to prevent the country from becoming a fully sovereign state that will protect its citizens and defend national interests.

What about the Region?

What will make Rohatyn so nervous about these developments, as LaRouche noted, is that Kirchner is systematically laying the basis for healing the wounds that have violently divided the Argentine nation for decades. Synarchist financial

forces have split the country between those who blame the military for all the country's ills, and those who blindly defend the armed forces against the attempt to annihilate them as an institution. Unless this operation is identified and reversed, as Kirchner is now attempting, Argentina will never be whole again.

And to what end is Kirchner trying to rally the entire nation?

With dramatic financial events expected to hit the global economy over the next 90 days, Kirchner's insistence on defending the General Welfare through a "heterodox" economic policy that shows scant regard for "the market" is rattling international bankers. He has acted forcefully to protect living standards from speculators and restrict foreign multinationals if he views their practices as inimical to the population's well-being. The French utility firm Suez discovered that to its regret, when Kirchner unceremoniously rescinded its concession to the privatized Aguas Argentinas company, charging it with negligence. Argentina replaced it with the new state-sector company AySA. (See *EIR* April 7, 2006.)

International financial predators see in Kirchner's bold action a dangerous threat, which is not just limited to Argentina. They were unnerved when Chile's new Socialist President Michelle Bachelet, sworn into office on March 11, decided that her first state visit would be to Argentina March 21-22, to forge a "strategic alliance" with Kirchner.

Chile has been the free-market bastion of synarchist control since the 1973 Pinochet coup. Bachelet, a physician who served in two cabinet posts under her predecessor, Ricardo Lagos, is not entirely a known quantity. But her victory over everything associated with the Pinochet fascists has created a window of opportunity in the region, not the least of which is her membership in the informal "Club" of Ibero-American Presidents who are seeking ways to shift the region away from the insane free-market policies imposed on it for decades, and promote development through physical integration and infrastructure development.

The Presidents' Club de facto includes Brazil's Lula da Silva, Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, and Bolivia's Evo Morales. But the synarchists know that Kirchner is the head of state who has demonstrated intelligent leadership in the group, and has defied the International Monetary Fund. They fear he will organize the others to follow his lead. They were not encouraged by Bachelet's visit to Buenos Aires, where she was welcomed with great warmth and cordiality, addressed the Congress, and signed a number of agreements for collaboration on joint infrastructure and cross-border integration projects. Bachelet, Kirchner, and First Lady Cristina Fernández were already friends. But she told the daily *Clarín* that she and the Argentine President "have broad agreement on the way we view the world . . . We have very similar goals in the area of foreign policy and integration."

From inside Chile, the pressures on the new President to keep things the way they have been, perhaps with a few

tweaks here and there, are enormous. This is especially true on the issue of reforming the private pension system that was so brutally imposed in 1981. The direction she ultimately chooses remains to be fought out. But she gained a glimpse of the possibilities when she met energetic LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) organizers on at least three occasions during her Buenos Aires visit, each time receiving a packet of programmatic literature, along with *EIR* and the Spanish-language *Resumen Ejecutivo*. At every stop, the LYM youth called out to her: "Michelle, work with Kirchner and LaRouche to build a New World Economic Order!"