

‘To Live in Real History’

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., delivered this summary address to the closing session of the summer cadre school of the Schiller Institute in Europe, held in Oberwesel, Germany, on July 26.

What is certain today, is that this is a very unusual circumstance. We are approaching the month of August, and, in the coming several months, August, September, October, there will be such changes in the world, as none of you living has ever seen before.

The change in the course of European and world history, which has been ongoing for the last thirty-odd years, is most comparable to the destruction of European civilization which occurred from the death of Frederick II, in the middle of the Thirteenth century, through the collapse of European civilization in the so-called Dark Age of the Fourteenth century.

What is certain among the many uncertainties of this circumstance, is: The present world monetary and financial system, or what some people call the world economic system, will not live out this century. The next months and years will see the end of every financial and monetary institution, as institutionalized forms, on this planet. They will all go. We obviously are therefore at a point in history, which is an unusual turning point. For someone to live in such a time as this, is to live what people have not lived for a thousand years—the time of crisis when everything changes, when nothing is simple any more. This is *real* history. Not the history that’s talked about in the newspapers, or the textbooks, or the classrooms these days: This is *real* history—a fundamental change in human destiny, for the better, or for the terrible.

Remember, that in the period from the middle of the Thirteenth to the middle of the Fourteenth century in Europe, half of the level of population

vanished. Half of the cities and towns of Europe, *vanished.* Most of the people who had lived relatively prosperously under early-Fourteenth-century European conditions, went insane, like the Flagellants—like the rock concert people today, the Flagellants of today, the techno people, the Flagellants of today, the madmen, the lunatics, *Unmenschen.* And we are in such a time.

History does not mean what event occurs, what or who is elected, what governments are elected, what war is won. That is not history. History is *ideas.* History is the principles, like the discovery of scientific principles, relative to the physical universe, or those principles we call artistic principles. These are the principles which determine how humanity behaves, how it governs itself. And we come to a turning point, where we must choose between two sets of ideas: The set of ideas, on the one hand, which are generally accepted; which are upheld by the press;

which are presented by the television; which are the commonly accepted terms of conversation; which are the common terms of discussion among parliamentarians; and so forth and so on. The common, street-corner types of discussion. All of this is nonsense. It’s finished, it’s gone. It’s over.

A new set of ideas will either take over, in the months and years *immediately* ahead—a fundamental, revolutionary change in the condition of mankind, which, hopefully, will be comparable to what happened in the context of the great ecumenical conference of Florence, in the Golden Renaissance in the middle of the Fifteenth century—, or, if we do not have such a revolutionary change, from evil to good, as the Council of Florence typifies, then we will find that the level of the human population will collapse in a very short period of time, to much less than half of what it is today. If there are over five billion people today, there

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may be less than one billion, twenty to forty years from now, maybe much less. Whole civilizations, nations which existed, will disappear. Entire languages and cultures will vanish, doomed, because they lack the ideas, the moral fitness to save themselves.

There's a good side to this horror show: It is that the universe is the best of all possible universes, as Leibniz said. So, whenever mankind, which is the ruler of this planet, and implicitly the potential ruler of this universe; whenever mankind becomes so filthy, so impure, so degraded, that mankind is *unfit* to rule the Earth, then history—and ideas—intervenes, and *eliminates* that culture which represents those ideas, which destroyed the mission given humanity.

What we are going to have to do, will probably, to most, seem impossible, in the next weeks and months ahead—is to make a great revolution, which will erupt, as people realize that everything they believed in up to now, is *false*. That government is *false*; the economy is *false*; institutions are *false*; that world credit institutions must vanish, globalization must vanish, free trade must vanish, Prince Philip of England must vanish, carried by the Erinyes, who are quite useful for carrying out such garbage.

Or else— We purge ourselves of these things, or we do not survive.

Look at the situation of Japan. The present ruling class of Japan is morally unfit to survive, and *will not survive*. Either Japan rids itself of this ruling class, or the world will rid itself of Japan. That's the fate of Japan, in the weeks ahead.

You see in Russia, a similar problem. The existing system cannot continue. It is doomed. It has to change. The existing system in Europe is doomed, it cannot continue to exist, past the weeks and months and years ahead. It's doomed. The present system in the United States is doomed. In Africa, the doom is already there. Asia, Southeast Asia, is doomed. South America, Central America—doomed. Unless a

Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

fundamental change in the choice of ideas to determine human behavior occurs in the weeks and months ahead.

This is real history. When you stand on a mountain-top, and you must choose one of two roads, for all mankind; you cannot wait, you cannot postpone, you must begin to move. You must move in one direction, the old direction, which is to doom, or you must move in a new direction, which is to survival and renaissance.

So, we live not in a period of “important events,” we live not in a period of “crisis,” but rather, we live in a time, when the fate of humanity for five hundred years perhaps to come, will be determined by what we do, in these weeks, months, and years ahead. And, what we do, will not be based on the swinging of swords, or great physical events; what we do, will be determined entirely within the realm of ideas. *Ideas*. The choice of ideas, and the ability and passion to act for those ideas which ensure the continuation of humanity.

If we fail, humanity will be *purged* of those of us who have failed, because we are unfit to survive, like Belshazzar, or ancient Babylon. If we become unfit to survive, like the empires in the dust, we shall go in the dust too. A new civilization will come to replace it, perhaps to do better.

But we have now the chance, one chance, a momentary chance; and to live in such a time, when the fate of humanity is in our hands, *that is to live in real history*.

Thank you.