

LYNDON LAROUCHE

MAN OF VISION OR VENOM?

Supporters of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. seem to be everywhere these days: on street corners, behind campus literature tables, outside post offices, at anti-war meetings and demonstrations. Is the man behind the LaRouche Youth Movement a progressive mentor for young activists? Is he really—as some of his supporters suggest—one of the world’s greatest living economists and philosophers? Is LaRouche, the perennial presidential candidate, an important leader in the Democratic Party? Or is Lyndon LaRouche a self-promoting demagogue surrounded by devoted followers who sanitize his long history of bigotry and crackpot statements, and dismiss his criminal conviction as the result of a vast conspiracy?

Twenty years ago these questions weren’t necessary. Back then, a wide range of activists across the political spectrum readily denounced Lyndon LaRouche and his international network as a fascistic totalitarian group spreading lunatic political theories, monitoring progressive activists and providing the information to government agencies, and engaging in dubious fundraising schemes.

These days, browsers stopping by a LaRouche table at an anti-war rally may be unaware of his past, or the truth about his political views. LaRouchite publications critical of the Bush Administration, the neoconservatives, and the Iraq War can seem appealing to progressives. So let’s review the LaRouche record.

has a problem with. He has dismissed rural Chinese culture as “hideous muck” with its people “paralleling the behavioral stagnation of lower animal life.” Elsewhere he dissed a group of Puerto Rican organizers as incompetent, which LaRouche asserted was tied to their being “almost totally sexually impotent.”

While the cultural accomplishments of people of color have been routinely dismissed by LaRouche, he regularly celebrates Eurocentric icons. We all become civilized, according to the LaRouchites, by learning to sing along with Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven; reading the work of 17th century European scholars such

as Leibniz; and, surprise, studying the voluminous writings and speeches of LaRouche.



IS LAROUCHE A “SMALL-TIME HITLER?”

DINO

SEXISM AND MISOGYNY

LaRouche has written about “Mothers’ Fears,” the many psychological problems of activists allegedly caused by their moms. An early LaRouchite editorial declared that “all across the U.S.A., there are workers who are prepared to fight. They are held back, most immediately, by pressure from their wives.” Women in the LaRouche organization at the time report they were verbally attacked in long criticism sessions as “witches,” and “sadistic bitches” and were accused of “mother-dominating” the male members.

One former member said she left the LaRouche group in disgust when told that women’s feelings of degradation were because female sexual organs are near the anus, thus causing women to confuse sex with excretion.

RACISM

LaRouche and some of his followers spread racist ideas that range from the absurd—such as the claim that Black musicians did not invent Jazz—to the crude, as in the question posed by LaRouche in one essay: “Can we imagine anything much more viciously sadistic than the Black Ghetto mother?” It’s not just Blacks LaRouche

HOMOPHOBIA

LaRouche charged that the federal government allowed AIDS to spread because it didn’t want to “estrangle the votes of a bunch of faggots and cocaine sniffers, the organized gay lobby, as it’s called in the United States. (I don’t know why they’re ‘gay,’ they’re the most miserable creatures I ever saw!)” LaRouche later suggested that history would not judge harshly those who beat gay people to death with baseball bats to stop the spread of AIDS.

A LaRouche network newspaper insert distributed in Illinois declared that “as a category, gays and lesbians do not represent a valid voting constituency, and neither do prostitutes, drug pushers, child molesters, warlocks, witches, pornographers, or others who are morally equivalent.”

ANTISEMITISM & NEOFASCISM

While LaRouche’s antisemitism is often veiled, he has written that Judaism is a kind of parasitic appendage to Christianity, that “a self-sustaining Judaism never existed and never could exist,” and that Jewish culture “is merely the residue

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left to the Jewish home after everything saleable has been marketed" to non-Jews. In the mid-1970s, LaRouche began incorporating claims of a vast Jewish conspiracy into his writing and the LaRouchites began to forge ties with persons from right-wing racist and antisemitic groups.

Antisemitic conspiracy theories were a core element of Hitler's Nazi movement, and later, the Nazis encouraged homophobia—themes picked up by LaRouche and some of his followers. A top spokesperson of the Anti-Defamation League has said of LaRouche: "He is a small-time Hitler, if I can put it that way, in that he regurgitates many little things that Hitler did but he does it in a somewhat ambivalent way, in a somewhat camouflaged way." Former U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan used the terms "fascist" and "neo-Nazi" to warn of the danger posed by the LaRouche group.

LAROUCHITES HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SNOOPING ON ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND PROVIDING BIASED INFORMATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

1994. Although the LaRouchites insist that they were framed and railroaded as part of a decades-long international conspiracy against them, scores of victims of LaRouchite financial misdeeds told a different story to reporters across the country, revealing a pattern in which some fundraisers for the LaRouche group victimized the elderly (among others) through aggressive fundraising and dubious investment schemes, and failed to repay tens of millions of dollars in loans.

CRACKPOT CONSPIRACIES

Why is LaRouche considered a crank in some circles? Consider the following tidbits drawn from numerous similar statements over 30 years. According to LaRouche, the Queen of England and the British royal family run the global drug trade. The Beatles (who "had no genuine musical talent") were created by the "British Psychological Warfare Division" and promoted "by agencies which are controlled by British intelligence."

RESPONSE

It's not effective to simply dismiss the claims by the LaRouchites as outright lies; they will simply deny it, and anyway, most of the people who surround LaRouche really seem to believe the many myths about the man and his mission. What do you think? Check it out.

The next time you pass the LaRouchites, stop and spend some time examining the literature. You may notice that all the publications from the various related groups—LaRouche PAC, *New Federalist*, Schiller Institute, LaRouche Youth Movement, *Executive Intelligence Review*—revolve around the latest speech, article, or statement by a single individual: Lyndon LaRouche. Is this how truly democratic political and social move-

ments are structured? Do effective grassroots activists need a guru to tell them what to think?

Whether you want to work for social and economic justice through the electoral system, seek more dramatic systemic change through radical political activism, or just want to speak out against the foreign or domestic policies of the Bush Administration, your commitment of time, energy, and moral outrage will be better served by walking past the LaRouchites toward a group that does not carry so much heavy baggage of bigotry.

**CHIP BERLET,
PRA SENIOR ANALYST**

ATTACKING ENVIRONMENTALISM

Pro-LaRouche publications have been at the forefront of denying the reality of global warming and have denounced Greenpeace and other ecology groups. One of the major planks of the LaRouche platform is the immediate construction of numerous nuclear power plants. The LaRouchites have a long history of snooping on environmentalists and other progressive activists and groups, and providing biased and distorted information to the media and government law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

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THUGGERY

During a five month campaign called "Operation Mop-Up," some LaRouche supporters used fists and martial arts weapons to break up meetings and beat up LaRouche's opponents on the political Left in the 1970s. Many targets of LaRouchite thuggery were injured and some were even hospitalized.

CRIMINALITY

LaRouche was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison for federal conspiracy, mail fraud and tax law violations. Six of LaRouche's aides and fundraisers also were convicted. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the conviction of LaRouche and his six associates, and LaRouche served 5 years in prison before being paroled in

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FIND ANY OF THIS HARD TO BELIEVE?

That's Understandable.

Check out the supporting evidence and citations at:
<http://www.publiceye.org/larouche/truestory.html>

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