



HOW DO YOU CREATE A RENAISSANCE?

December 30, 2016—Lyndon and Helga LaRouche's Tuesday, Dec. 27 discussion with the Base-ment and the Policy Committee, exemplified the process which characterizes a renaissance--and a contemporary U.S. economic recovery. In that dramatic dialog, speaker after speaker came forward with new and varying ideas--all different, but all provoked by a common unspoken intention, and all tending toward an implicit common end, while at the same time they fed each other like sparks of a single fire. One is reminded of Plato's description of his method of dialog in his "Seventh Letter."

They were like trickles, joining to streams and eventually into a great river, always propelled by an unseen, intangible force. What force? The greatest of all forces: the self-subsisting positive, the common aims of mankind. How is it possible that something which you didn't even believe to exist at one time, can later become the purpose of your life? Can become the mission whose importance even far outweighs your life itself?

One dichotomy which ran through the discussion, one especially acute in today's U.S.A., was that of "culture" versus "productivity," as they are wrongly understood to differ from each other. This false dichotomy goes back to Hegel's lying distinction between "Geisteswissenschaft" (the humanities) as against "Naturwissenschaft" (natural science) in the 19th Century. It was exacerbated by Bertrand Russell's decortication of science, against Einstein, beginning in 1900. Franklin Roosevelt worked successfully towards overcoming it until he was effectively removed from office by the FBI, while he was still alive. Then,

after World War II, it was still further inflamed by the poison pumped out by the British Empire's Congress for Cultural Freedom.

The full Congress for Cultural Freedom program never took hold in the Soviet Union, although there were numerous other severe problems; this is why Friedrich Schiller seemed to be more respected at times in the Soviet satellite of East Germany than in Western Germany. Soviet thinking always correlated productivity with the cultural level. Witness the 1972 Soviet movie "The Taming of the Fire," a heavily-fictionalized portrayal of space hero S.P. Korolyov. Director Khrabrovitsky was forced by the censors to change almost all of the facts and names, but he placed all the more emphasis on some basic truths. Almost as soon as the film opens, pioneering Russian space scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky is passionately trying to explain to young Korolyov, how and why the "cultural level" of the entire country must move far, far upwards if its factories are to be able to produce cosmic rockets, artificial satellites ("sputniks"), and space vehicles.

Most everything President Putin does, reflects his higher standpoint on this struggle to upgrade Russian culture, as reflected, for instance, in his year-end press-conference.

Within the new international paradigm created by Vladimir Putin and the Chinese leadership, and after the dumping of the Bush-Obama dictatorship, a renaissance and a U.S. economic recovery--one and the same thing from two different viewpoints--are now immediately on the agenda if we act to bring them about.

Happy 39th wedding anniversary, Lyn and Helga!