

SMILING MAN from a DEAD PLANET

THE MYSTERY OF LYNDON LAROCHE

By Hylozoic Hedgehog
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**“SMILING MAN FROM A DEAD PLANET”:
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By Hylozoic Hedgehog for LaRouche Planet

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One day
where the children played
There came a smiling man from a dead planet

He stood
As if to show he knew
The way of children
And a stranger

Soon
More curious that startled
The children shuffled;
Eyeing the figure that
Seemed not to menace after all

“He is this,” one said,
Or perhaps that,” another suggested

One child looked directly
At the man
The stranger’s eyes smiled,
His mouth unchanged.

In time,
The boldest spoke
The stranger nodded.
Another tried,
“He does not speak
our language,” one proposed

After the failure
Of several efforts to prompt
Conversation from the visitor.

“He knows,”
another corrected.
“See his eyes.”
“He understands?”
another asked.
“You understand?” he said
to the stranger.

The man’s expression
Didn’t change,
They swore later.
But all the same
They knew he understood.

They were pleased

So pleased.
They turned from the visitor
For a moment.
To share their opinion.
When they glanced back,
He was gone.

They never saw him again
But they know
That something
Important
And good
Had happened for him
And for themselves.

Poem by Lyndon LaRouche. Cited by Dan Jacobs in "A True History of Lyn Marcus [Lyndon LaRouche] and the Labor Committees" published in *Critical Practice, The Theoretical Journal of the International Workers Party*, 1975.

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PREFACE: GOLDFISH BOWL

A popularized mythology is like a goldfish bowl. No matter how cleverly the fish chooses his direction within the bowl, he can never escape it in such a fashion. No matter how cleverly he adapts to the environment of the bowl's medium (e.g., popular mythologies), whoever moves the bowl moves him in a corresponding direction. Lyndon LaRouche. From: "The Secrets Known Only to the Inner Elites," *The Campaigner* (May-June 1978), 8.

On night in the winter of 1986 I found myself in the Les Halles district of Paris talking with the French artist and writer Jean-Jacques Lebel. Once the conversation finally got around to the craziness of the 1960s, Lebel quoted a saying popular in his anarchist circle. It went like this: “The theory of one person is madness but the madness of three people is theory.” However, in the case of the NCLC it seems clear that the madness of one person really was theory and the rest of this book attempts to explain just why that was so.

Now a brief description of how this text came into existence. *Smiling Man from a Dead Planet: The Mystery of Lyndon LaRouche* began in 1986-87 as an attempt to better understand the NCLC’s trajectory from a Marxist sect to an anti-Marxist political cult by 1979, the year my study concludes. Thanks to Dennis King’s book *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism*, however, the interested reader can pursue the story from the very late 1970s into the late 1980s. Even though King and I fundamentally differ over his claim that the NCLC is a conscious Nazi or crypto-Nazi organization, his book provides much invaluable information and reflects years of dogged investigative reporting. I personally learned a lot from it.

All that said, even with this work and King’s, the last two decades of the NCLC’s history from 1990 until late 2009 – over half the time it has been in existence – remain terra incognita. The NCLC also operated in Europe as well as America. The European side the NCLC’s saga remains largely unknown although in 1994 a former member of the German organization named Aglaja Beyes-Corleis wrote an important memoir entitled *Verirrt: mein Leben in einer radikalen Politorganisation*. In short, there is a tremendous amount that we simply don’t know.

It was just this sense of unanswered questions that motivated me some two decades ago to return to the weird world of Lyndon LaRouche. My original text was a one draft affair of some 230

single-spaced pages written on an electric typewriter in under five weeks. After completing the manuscript, I shared it with a few other researchers with a specialized interest in LaRouche but decided to best leave it “to the gnawing criticism of the mice” (so to speak) rather than turn it into a book as I felt the degree of detail that I brought to the subject would only interest a specialist readership. I also wrote the manuscript primarily as an attempt to clarify many of the issues raised by the NCLC in my own mind. My initial attempt, quite simply, was meant most of all to enable me to think outside “the goldfish bowl.”

More recently, however, the success of LaRouche Planet has convinced me that even though the readership for such a specialized text will remain limited, there are enough people who might be interested enough in the topic to justify publishing a revised electronic version of the original study. Besides updating the chapters, I have also added some later research. My chapters on “Wiener World,” for example, are completely new as is my study of Technocracy, Inc. There are also two important notes to be made about this version of the study as compared with the original. In the original text, I omitted a detailed examination of the very early history of the NCLC from 1966 to 1971. In the past year, however, I have written an extensive separate history of the NCLC’s very early days in both New York and Philadelphia. The Old Mole and New Mole Files, as I dubbed them, first appeared on the FactNet discussion forum on the Labor Committee. They are now collected on LaRouche Planet and provide an exhaustive survey of the early stages of the organization’s development.

I should also note that in preparing the LaRouche Planet version of *Smiling Man from a Dead Planet*, I have omitted one long section from my original manuscript that focused on the period from April to November-early December 1973 (or from “Operation Mop-Up” to “Beyond Psychoanalysis”). Instead, I have tried to incorporate much of this material throughout the revised manuscript.

Finally, in looking at the NCLC – which I consider a political cult – it is always wise to ask whether or not it really is worth the time and effort to understand such a strange organization. While the obvious answer is clearly “no,” I believe it is still worth the effort by at least a few people to take a closer look if only so that the rest of us don’t have to. My peculiar fate was to be one of these few people. The result of my effort now lies before you.

Hylozoic Hedgehog

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Bouquets and brickbats (Jeff, that’s a metaphor) can be sent to HylozoicHedgehog@gmail.com .