

It is now acknowledged even within the United States itself, that a financial “downturn” is inevitable.

Such popular “wisdom” dramatically understates the crisis that is already here, let alone what is to come. Abandonment of fundamental economic principles—those based on a proper

understanding of the nature of man—has brought the world to the very edge of a New Dark Age of biological holocaust, economic collapse, and war. But, such a crisis also opens a window of opportunity for correct leadership, like that of proven economic genius LaRouche, to pull together the forces

needed to return us to the right track.

Citizens who are committed to seizing that opportunity, and taking part in saving civilization, could do no better than begin by studying this new LaRouche text. It will enrich your mind in the ways that count in the long run.

—Nancy Spannaus

A Profile in Courage

If you are one of the people who doesn't believe that there are political prisoners in the United States, you must read this book. Michael Billington was sentenced to three years in prison as part of the Federal trial which railroaded Lyndon LaRouche to 15 years in prison, and he was then prosecuted by the Virginia officials who were part of the national public-private “Get LaRouche” task force, and sentenced to another 77 years in prison—all because he raised funds for the LaRouche political movement. Billington was paroled in October 2000, after serving a total of more than ten years in prison.

Reflections is Billington's story about why he joined, and his activities as part of, the LaRouche political movement, and the persecution he endured because of those activities. His odyssey—from 1960's Middle American Peace Corps volunteer, to radical political organizer, to international spokesman for Third World development—presents a fascinating portrait of how an unflinching commitment to pursue the cause of justice and truth, can elevate an individual into the arena of world history.

The Past Quarter-Century

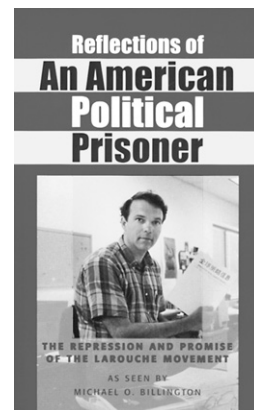
A good way to understand the history of the United States of the past quarter-century, would be to read this book. At times during the nation's history, as during the Civil War, the struggle between an oligarchy committed to destroying the nation-state, and those defending that institution as an indispensable tool to protect the General Welfare, has been bloody. At other times, as during the past quarter-century, the war has been waged with less loss of life. But it is around this battle, that the fate of the nation, and the

world, has always revolved. During the recent period, LaRouche, the LaRouche movement, and Michael Billington, have been at the center of the fight.

Billington's front-line report shows the high-level strategic nature of what has been at stake. For example, one reason he was targeted for a 77-year sentence, was that he was up against the secret, “parallel government” operations of then-Vice President George Bush. Billington was organizing American “conservatives” to understand that only a program of economic development could give people the optimism necessary to end narco-terrorist insurgencies, and politically stabilize Ibero-America. In many instances, these were the same individuals whom Oliver North was hitting up for money for his illegal Contra operations—operations which were fuelling insurgencies and simultaneously flooding the streets of American cities with crack cocaine. North and Bush went free, while Billington was brought up on charges.

On strategic policy, few people realize that the battle for the LaRouche-authored Strategic Defense Initiative, designed to overthrow the Kissingerian U.S. strategic doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction, was to provide a science-driver to the economy, around the development of technologies based on new physical principles, to spark a global economic recovery. President Reagan announced the S.D.I. on March 23, 1983, and despite the fact that the policy was later sabotaged from within his Administration, LaRouche's victory on this policy fight, changed the course of history.

Similarly, when the Mexico debt crisis broke out in 1982, few people knew that that was an opportunity to reorganize the financial system, to put in place



**Reflections of an American Political Prisoner:
The Repression and Promise of the LaRouche Movement
as seen by Michael O. Billington**
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a just, new world economic order, to provide long-term, low-interest credit for industry, advanced technology, and infrastructure. Kissinger played an important role in preventing Reagan from implementing that policy, and it's a fight that has yet to be won.

Politics and Creativity

In every policy area, Billington paints a picture of how LaRouche intervened in response to a crisis, how the LaRouche movement organized around a policy initiative, and how the literature and special reports were published to win support for those ideas among the population: to stop deregulation, globalization, and International Monetary Fund conditionalities; to stop drugs, for which the LaRouche-inspired National Anti-Drug Coalition came under ferocious attack by Wall Street-directed interests; to enforce sane public health policy measures, such as on AIDS, for which the

LaRouche movement also came under vicious attack, and which measures, if enacted 15 years ago, would have prevented millions of deaths; to revive Classical culture, including restoring tuning of musical performances to the scientifically determined C=256. And so on.

One might wonder, where the source of inner strength to face years in prison came from. As is clear from *Reflections*, Billington is a personal example of LaRouche's thesis, that creativity in music, art, and science, must define polit-

ical life. LaRouche continually polemicalizes that one cannot "learn" important ideas, but that one must discover for oneself, one must re-create in one's own mind, the breakthrough that led to each new discovery. It's that commitment to truth, which Billington exposes the reader to through his own thought-process in tackling difficult concepts. For example, Billington lays out discoveries from his own original research on Chinese history and philosophy, including the similarities between the European Renaissance and

that of Confucian China, and the role of the evil Bertrand Russell in China, and Russell's influence within Maoism.

As one person commented after reading *Reflections*: "For nearly twenty years I have been a supporter and avid reader of . . . informative writings of Lyndon LaRouche, but this book by Mike Billington brought me a new perspective. . . . The book brings added clarity to the goals and objectives we are working to achieve."

—Ronald Kokinda

Seeing Peace in a Difficult Landscape

It was the design of those who crafted the Oslo Accord for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, to leave the most intractable matters to the end. Central to the agreement was that the first steps would be to reach compromises on trading "land for peace," and implementing a series of economic development projects which would provide material benefit to both the Israelis and the Palestinians. Achieving success in these two areas presumably would establish the trust required to resolve the more complex and emotional issues left for "Final Status" talks.

The two most problematic issues assigned to the "Final Status" talks were, those of reaching an agreement on the status of Jerusalem, and resolving the refugee problem. The outbreak of the presently ongoing Intifada II, triggered by the ill-advised effort of President Clinton to impose an agreement on Jerusalem on Barak and Arafat, demonstrates how explosive these remaining issues are. The second issue, the "Right of Return" of the Arabs who lost their land during the 1947-8 and 1967 wars, is the subject of the latest book by Meron Benvenisti, an Israeli author and historian who once served as the Vice-Mayor of Jerusalem.

A Personal Journey

It has been the policy of every Israeli government, since its founding in 1948, to reject any discussion of the return of Arabs to the towns and villages within the territory of British-controlled Palestine in which they lived, before the mass

exodus of the War of 1948. As a result, more than 380,000 Palestinians were turned into non-citizens, with many living in abject poverty in refugee camps, while their land was incorporated into the Jewish homeland. The defeated Arab population was humiliated, with the sense of loss engendering the bitterness one sees etched on the faces of the youth who today battle the Israeli security forces. Many of those who have died during the Intifada are third- and fourth-generation residents of these camps.

David Benvenisti, the author's father, was a leader of the team deployed by the government of Israel, shortly after the 1948 war, "to draw a Hebrew map of the land," to serve as "a renewed title deed" for Jews to take possession of Palestine. The stated goal of this effort, according to his son, was to inculcate "his children and countless other young Israelis with the Zionist ethos of 'moledet' (homeland): knowledge of its glorious Jewish past, intimate communion with its nature, and personal commitment to pioneering in collective agricultural settlements."

The technical part of this task involved giving Hebrew names to the towns and villages which had been inhabited by Arabs. The effect was to successfully erase the old landscape, which had been dotted by more than 200 Arab villages, eliminating the evidence that Arabs had once lived there. As Benvenisti points out, map-making was used by the British as a special weapon for imposing colonial domination, and this



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The Buried History of the
Holy Land Since 1948**
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tactic was borrowed by the Israelis. The need to establish "facts on the ground," to demonstrate an unbroken continuity of Jewish settlement and, conversely, the lack of an historical Arab presence, made the creation of a Hebrew map a necessity. Reading present-day Israeli textbooks, writes Benvenisti, creates an awareness of just "how close we are to the point when the vanished Arab landscape will be considered just a piece of Arab propaganda, a fabrication aimed at the destruction of Israel through incitement of 'The Return.'"

Sharing Sacred Landscape

This subject is clearly one which troubles the author. His book is simultaneously an appeal for justice for the Palestinians, and an attempt to come to terms