

## The great battle: Zeus vs. Prometheus

*To free mankind from slavery and dehumanisation, we must understand the great battle between Zeus and Prometheus, break free of oligarchism, and once again become Prometheans*

Recently Lyndon LaRouche has developed the metaphor of “Zeus vs. Prometheus”, as a means for understanding the civilisational crisis we are facing today. “Zeus,” he writes, “is the name given to an archetype attributed, as in the relevant ancient Greek sources, to the original principle of human evil otherwise known to modern society as ‘the oligarchical principle.’” This is the “idea of imperialism”, the oligarchical system, he said. The Promethean principle, on the contrary, represents the creative personality: the Prometheus who brought the “fire” of scientific discovery to mankind.

In his Jan. 10 webcast LaRouche discussed with *EIR*'s Dennis Small the Zeusian principle which is destroying mankind today, that is, the anti-science, anti-development, anti-people mindset that has come to dominate the planet. Citing the process of physical science and mankind's declining level of knowledge, technology and development, LaRouche stated that, “[T]he Zeus/Prometheus division is the most fundamental, known factor of development in all human history.”

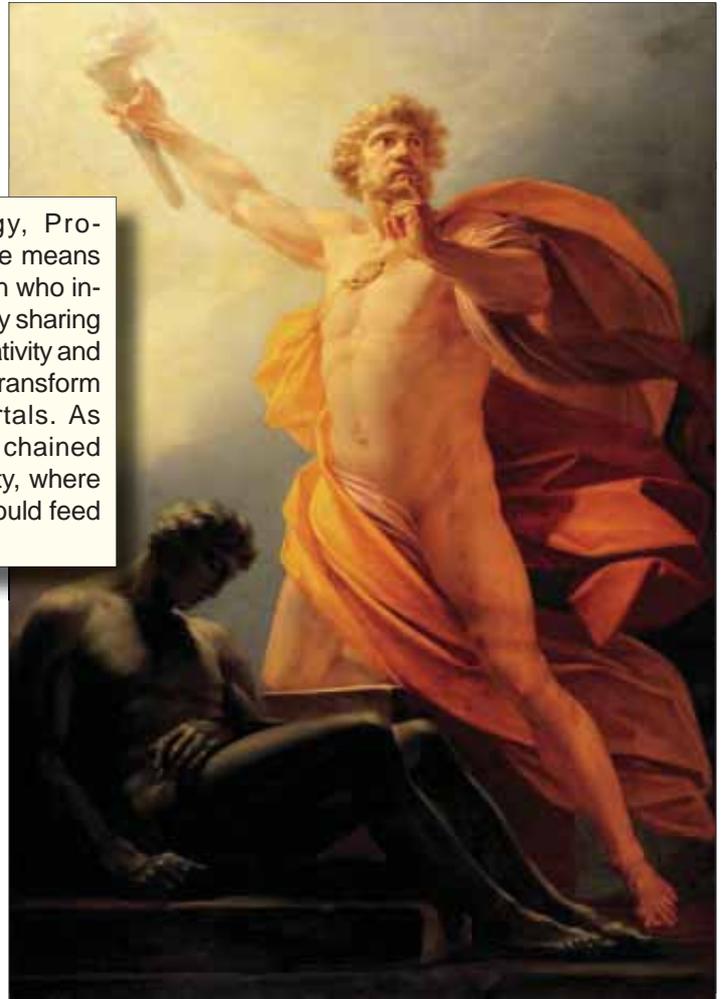
Earlier, in his Dec. 27 webcast, LaRouche had made clear that the greens are the most clear-cut example of people acting in the anti-development, Zeusian tradition. Lacking any drive for creativity, i.e. to creatively transform the planet, they exist as slaves in a system of slavery; “they don't have their own minds”, said LaRouche. Such an oligarchical system has come to dominate humanity, which has led to the depravity and the dehumanisation of human beings. Mankind must be free of this oligarchical tendency, and various nations, LaRouche enthused, in Asia and Eurasia, are making a push to break free of serfdom.

LaRouche later identified in a discussion with colleagues regarding the global strategic situation, that, “we are now in a world war situation, a systemic war, and this is the great war...: It's the great war between Zeus and Prometheus. And if you don't think in those terms, you don't understand the situation of the world today.”

In the Jan. 8 LPAC Weekly Report, LaRouche elaborated:

“So, we're not dealing with quarrels among nations. We're dealing with more fundamental principles. We're dealing with essentially a conflict between Zeus and Prometheus. And the attempt to save humanity from destruction by Zeus, means that you have to call in the principle of Prometheus to do it: And that is creative work, which means, changing the character of Earth, by taking

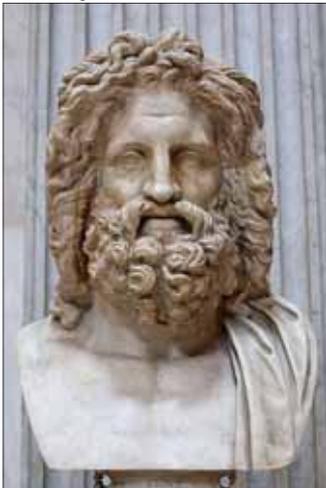
In Greek mythology, Prometheus, whose name means “foresight”, was a Titan who invoked the ire of Zeus by sharing fire—representing creativity and the ability of man to transform his world—with mortals. As punishment he was chained to a rock for all eternity, where every day an eagle would feed on his liver.



the policy of going back to progress. But that means going to a Promethean policy!

“Asia has been almost destroyed by the Zeus process. It is Zeus who has almost destroyed Asia! Or put it through mutilation. It is the Promethean impulse which has risen up, more in Asia now in terms of government, than in the trans-Atlantic region, and which is now on the way up. It is that development, that basis of the transformation of the Eurasia area, as opposed to the trans-Atlantic region. The trans-Atlantic region is still dominated from the top, by the British Empire, as a whole. That's what the problem is. The Eurasian sector has elements in which, taken in aggregate, are now vitally struggling, to save their own nations and people from being crushed.

“This means that you have, on the one hand, a Eurasian factor—it's only a Eurasian factor, not Eurasia—but the factor of influence, the factor of morale, of outlook, of leading forces that are functioning in the Eurasian region. All the old garbage is still there, but you have a leading force which is actually pulling things in a different direction, in a Promethean direction. Whereas we are dying in the trans-Atlantic region because of the present, continued domination of the trans-Atlantic region by the evil ones, typified by Wall Street, typified by the British Empire, typified by the Dutch kingdom.”



A sculpture depicting Zeus.

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### The key to becoming Promethean

As LPAC's Jason Ross stated in the Jan. 1 LPAC Weekly Report, "The natural condition of mankind, when not impeded by empire is to develop, is to be Promethean."

The ability to succeed in implementing our economic recovery programs begins with a shift *inside* the mind—the understanding and determination that one will *not* be a slave, but fight to exercise one's unique creative powers as a human being made in the image of the Creator, and with the potential to build a society based on that truth. The goal is not simply to escape evil, but to *do the good*—create a Promethean system that will once more raise up man to the level that his actually human level demands.

In his introduction to the Jan. 8 LPAC Weekly Report, Jason Ross quoted from an English translation of the German poem by Goethe, "Prometheus", which encapsulates this attitude:

Here I sit, and form mortals  
In my own image,  
A race like myself,  
To suffer, to weep,  
To joy and to be glad,  
And to respect you not  
As I.

"This contempt, this disdain, this defiance, this slight regard that Prometheus shows for Zeus, is a sign of a very healthy mental state," Jason continued. "This is what the practice of psychology, and the practice of society need to aim for in human beings: The right mental state is a contempt for Zeus, a scorn for the oligarchy, and a growing awareness of the powers of one's own mind, to reshape the world, to improve it, and to improve our power in it, and to discover more about it."

Read on to discover more about the great battle between Zeus and Prometheus, and what that means for us today. Refer to [www.larouchepac.com](http://www.larouchepac.com) for more.

### Promethean humanity: an ongoing gift

*Excerpt from LaRouche PAC New Paradigm for Mankind Weekly Report, January 1, 2014*

JASON ROSS: We have a gift of sorts for you: An idea of what humanity is, an ongoing gift. The last Basement webcast that we had a few weeks ago, ended with a question that was sent in about how we measure what the human species is? What is it that makes the human species unique, *and* is the human species better than or superior to other types of life on the planet? And what we've got, and we're going to get into, in application, and what Mr. LaRouche has discussed in detail in his most recent paper, "The History Just Ahead," is the best way of understanding what the human species is and the fights that have characterised our history: That fight being that between Zeus and Prometheus, not a mythical fight, but a real one.

So I'd like to begin by reading a couple of quotes from Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*. Who is Prometheus? Let's see. As the play opens, Zeus has chained Prometheus to a rock, and the Chorus is inquiring why this is. Here's what Prometheus says. [as read] He says,

"You ask why he [Zeus], you ask why he torments me, and this I will now make clear. As soon as he had seated himself upon his father's throne, he immediately assigned to the deities their several privileges and apportioned to them their proper powers. But of wretched mortals, he took no notice, desiring to bring the whole race to an end and create a new one in its place. Against this purpose none dared make stand, except me. I only had the courage. I saved mortals so they would not descend, blasted utterly, to the House of Hades. This is why I

am bent by such grievous tortures, painful to suffer, piteous to behold. I, who gave mortals first place in my pity, I am deemed unworthy to win this pity for myself, but am in this way mercifully disciplined, a spectacle that shames the glory of Zeus."

The Chorus says, "Iron-hearted and made of stone, Prometheus, is he who feels no compassion for your miseries. For myself, I would not have desired to see them. And now that I see them, I am pained to my heart."

Prometheus goes on, Chorus asked if he did anything else, and Prometheus says, "Yes, I caused mortals to cease foreseeing their doom."

Chorus: "Of what sort was the cure that you found for this affliction?"

Prometheus: "I caused unseen hopes to dwell within their breasts."

Chorus: "A great benefit was this you gave to mortals."

Prometheus: "In addition, I gave them fire."

Chorus: "What? Do creatures of a day now have flame-eyed fire?"

Prometheus: "Yes, and from it, they shall learn many arts." A short bit later in the play, Prometheus says more about what he has given to mankind. He says, "Listen to the miseries that beset mankind, how they were witless before, and I made them have sense and endowed them with reason. I speak not to upbraid mankind, but to set for the friendly purpose that inspired my blessing. First of all, though they had eyes to see, they saw to no avail. They had ears but did not understand. But just shapes and dreams through their length of days without purpose, they wrought all things in confusion. They had neither knowledge of houses built of bricks and turned to face the Sun, nor yet of work in wood, but dwelt beneath the ground like swarming ants in sunless caves. They had no sign, either of winter or of flowery spring, or of fruitful summer, on which they could depend, a calendar, but managed everything without judgment, unless I taught them to discern the risings of the stars and their settings which are difficult to distinguish. Yes, and numbers, too, chiefest of sciences I invented for them, and the combining of letters, creative mother of the Muses' arts, with which to hold all things in memory. I, too, first brought brute beasts under the yoke to be subject to the collar and the pack-saddle, so that they might bear in men's stead their heaviest burdens. And to the chariot I harnessed horses and made them obedient to the rein, to be an image of wealth and luxury. It was I, and no one else, who invented the mariner's flaxen-winged car, that roams the sea, sailing ships. Wretched that I am, such are the arts that I devised for mankind, yet have myself no cunning means to rid me of my present suffering."

Last excerpt: Just a short bit later, he says, "As to the benefits to men that lay concealed beneath the earth, bronze, iron, silver and gold, who would claim to have discovered them before me? No one, I know full well, unless he likes to babble idly. Hear the sum of the whole matter in the compass of one brief word:



A sculpture of Prometheus.

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Every art possessed by man comes from Prometheus.”

So you get a sense of the full context of what Promethean fire means here: It means all of the sciences, as well, all of the power of mankind. He's discussed the use of beasts of burden, the development of metallurgy, astronomy, poetry, number.

The natural condition of mankind, when not impeded by empire is to develop, is to be Promethean. That's our most fundamental character, even though through recent history, to express that has required a fight against the prevailing oligarchical system. Nonetheless, that is our primary and natural essence.

So in terms of what we're going to be covering today, what Ben's going to be presenting, we see this fight between Prometheus and Zeus, expressed today, by the Green ideology. The Green ideology which is Zeus in another form, with a different colour, I suppose, says that human beings fundamentally just shouldn't change anything, that we shouldn't exist, that we should have no impact on nature. If you're promoting human extinction, you could be honest and say it, and that's what many of these Greenies are quite willing to say, such as the Queen of England, who makes no bones about it saying that the human population of the world should be below 1 billion. ...

LAROUCHE: Because, now let's look at the Solar System from the standpoint of a Promethean standpoint. Now here we are, we got mankind is a small creature, relatively speaking, and a very weak one at the beginning, and very limited in numbers, and the effectiveness is terribly limited. But then, as we increase our power, from a Promethean standpoint—you always have to start with a Promethean standpoint. First of all, you have to have Promethean man. But man has, very early, Promethean



Ben Deniston told the Jan. 1 LPAC Weekly Report: And the Sun's constantly producing this isotope—if people don't know, the Sun's constantly producing this isotope of helium, helium-3, which is a very good fusion fuel. It's constantly spewing it out in the solar wind, the plasma it's emitting. It's been depositing itself on the Moon, since the Sun's been going, for billions of years. It doesn't reach the Earth, because we have our magnetic field; the Earth's magnetic field keeps this solar plasma from hitting the Earth's surface directly, but the Moon's just been racking it up, building up these huge deposits of helium-3.

capabilities. These are our scale: we're looking backward from now and so forth, back in history, you find that the early part of man's life was very limited, because the energy flux density was very poor for mankind, the standard of living, the increment of power per unit of life, and per unit of person.

So now, mankind became very significant, when we began to use minerals, because the development of minerals meant

### The Principle of Prometheus

*Excerpt from "The History Just Ahead", Lyndon LaRouche, 24 Dec. 2013, published in EIR 10 Jan. 2014*

The principle of Prometheus, separates his identity from that of all presently known human oligarchs and oligarchies, alike. The following is the essential distinction of principle, of fully human persons, from the intellectually deformed, otherwise human victims of the quality of slavery which imitates lower forms of life. That is the essential point of distinction, of Prometheus from the children of Zeus.

The functional distinction which separates the two opposing categories in a fully systemic respect, is matter of mental distinction of the two opposite types, as finger from thumb of the same original breeding of the living stalk. The reduction of the actually human individual to a slave, is precisely a typical such distinction. The difference in type of behaviour, and of the consequences of that distinction, is also the essence of the distinction of both slaves and also of slave-masters (the accomplices of Zeus), from what may be fairly identified as the Prometheans.

The most essential feature of that just-stated point of distinction, is the crucial point of emphasis to be addressed here. It is the effects of that in-bred distinction between the two types from common human origins, which is the location of the distinctions between the two apparent types. The root of the functional difference is an effect of the distinction of the creative human personality, as a type, from the willing slave. That is the core of the Promethean principle, the difference in principle of behaviour of the child of Prometheus, as distinguished from the slave-mentalities which are to be associated with the notion of the qualities of the relatively systemically degraded victims of the contamination which is characteristic of the prevalent influence of the Zeus-influence.

The essentially functional distinction between the two contrasted functional types, is what is often identified as "intellectual." The one is creative, or "intellectual;" the other, is merely "practical." The root of that distinction can be defined as shown to be precise. However, the expression of the relative degree of distinction, which defines a greater degree of difference between the "creative" and "merely practical," is the locality of the distinction of relatively free persons, from those who are conditioned to submission to behaviour characteristic among slaves. Such is the rule-of-thumb sort of distinction of a mental state of serfdom, and that of a person identified as animal-like bondage as slaves.

The crucial issues of distinction among the varying types which might be reasonably attributable, point to, above all, the expression of voluntary creative mental powers, in varying degrees of expression as such. The crucial quality of distinction among those exhibiting talents of active creativity, is found in those persons who have successfully cultivated the qualities of mental development of what is to be classed as scientific and related qualities of creativity comparable to those of great Classical musicians and what fall, otherwise, into both actively creative physical scientific discoverers of true physical principles, and artistic creativity of a comparable, but distinct expression of the same quality rightly identified as "genius."

It is those persons who have been advantaged by the development of what is usefully identified as genius, who demonstrate in practice the relative qualities rightly dubbed "genius." The proper intention of society, is to cultivate the development of all human individuals into an expression of the principle of such "genius."

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the increase of man-managed power, and man could consume the use of power to increase man's power and development. The population increases; we are now way behind in our duties, or what we should have been doing as human beings with our present physical culture, or intellectual and physical culture potential. Because we've been waiting to actually take over the satellites, the asteroids: We should be taking these over.

We know, now, with this Moon development by China, with this idea of the helium approach to this matter, and the solar helium—well, wait a minute! Where's this heat coming from? The heat source is a heat source within the Solar System. Without getting to the galactic factors, and then galaxies are a much bigger operations. And then you have the larger systems.

So in all these periods, we're finding that mankind is absorbing a greater rate in concentration of both energy flux density as such as a human being, in terms of efficient activity, development activity; we now are way being in actually controlling the inner part of the Solar System. We should have been much further then, if we think about, in terms of what was being done in the whole history, because all the species, the galactic process and so forth, all this system has been held back by the oligarchical system. It's held back the development terribly—tremendous capitulations!

Now we're beginning to get—or have been recently, with modern society, modern, before the Greenies, now we're going back. But, what's the potential? If we do the right thing, we should be now taking this inner part of the Solar System, inner region, which includes Mars and all this garbage in that general area, and most of that which is not too close to the Sun, is convenient for our use directly. Now, if we can milk the Sun, for the helium product, well, that gives us an additional dimension.

Now, once we start to milk the Sun's helium production, which is really, it's like the fire in the furnace, from a galactic standpoint; and we do that, that means that mankind is now going to have to think about absorbing larger and larger areas, and more densely, within the Solar System. The idea of going to matter-antimatter levels, when you get to the Solar System, looking at it from the helium-3 standpoint, what you're looking at, is you're at not that! You're looking at a different, higher-order process being centered in the Sun. You're beginning to see what the Sun really is. Now, you begin to see more accurately, exactly what the Solar System means, in terms of the role of the Sun!

The Sun is not something that's sitting, and trying to control and manage the Solar System, not exactly. What the Sun is doing, the Sun is the engine which works on the Solar System *as a whole*. It's the mother of the Solar System as a whole. Fun!

Which means that mankind has within the prospects of man, because our abilities should be to accelerate our capability of growth, a really capable kind of process, and really creative. And creative man should now be, because of incentive presented by the threats of asteroids, we have to harvest this whole thing, we have to take charge of it. The fact that we *can* be enabled to take charge of it, means that we're going to inhabit that area, or control it; instead of saying we're going to live there, we're going to say we're going to control that area. This would be our farm. So we're going to build up farming areas in the raw material of the Solar System.

We've got these smaller planets nearby, we can concentrate on those first, before we get into some Saturnalia, or Jupiterian activities [laughter], I think we have to take care of the inner part of the Solar System a little bit more attentively.

### Who was Prometheus?

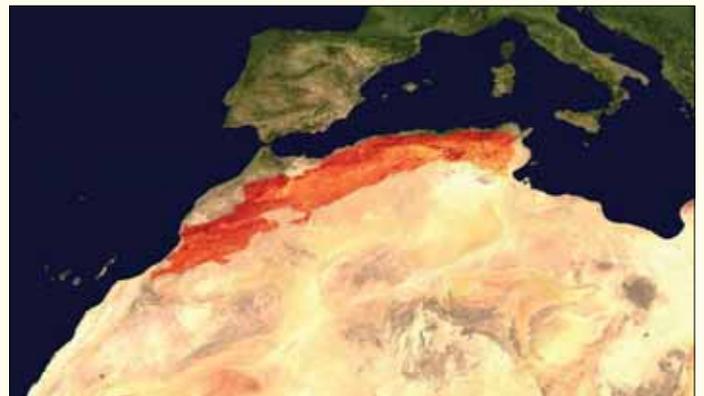
*In his 1999 article, "Prometheus & Europe", Lyndon LaRouche recounted an historical chronology provided by figures such as Plato, Diodorus Siculus and Herodotus, of the occurrences upon which the legend of the Gods of Olympus and the Prometheus story may be based. In his Jan. 5, 2014 article, "Against Dictatorship!" he refers to the notion that Zeus and Prometheus are merely fictional characters, as mistaken.*

About 12,000 years ago, or somewhat earlier, a flotilla of Aships arrived from the Atlantic Ocean, to found a colony in the region of modern Morocco, near the Straits of Gibraltar, in the vicinity of the Atlas Mountains. The colonists found there a relatively primitive culture, that of the ancient Berbers, whom the colonists educated in methods of agriculture, and made subjects of the colony. After a time, the sons of a royal concubine, Olympia, conspired to murder the tyrannical ruler, and seize power for themselves. The leading figure among these revolting sons of Olympia, was Zeus.

Prometheus was one of the legitimate heirs to the power of the colony. He joined the Olympians in the opposition to the tyranny itself, but fought against the brutalizing new tyranny which the patricidal sons of Olympia imposed upon the Berber population, over the corpse of Zeus's butchered father.

This occurred within the same, Peoples of the Sea, colony of the Atlas region, which extended its cultural impact throughout the Mediterranean littoral, to the included effect of participating in the founding of Egypt at a time now about 10,000 years ago.

Once we recognise, despite British frauds over the subject of "linear B," and so on, that the populations of the period of Greece prior to its usually referenced "dark age," were the same "Greeks" who had, as Peoples of the Sea, populated that area, and Cyrenaica, as elsewhere, during the millennium preceding that "dark age," we begin to close the gap between 12,000 B.C. and the emergence of Ionian sea-power as rivals to Phoenician maritime power. If we take into account some great catastrophe,



The location of the Atlas Mountains (in red), northwest Africa.

perhaps a natural catastrophe, which wiped out much of the culture pre-existing about 10,000 B.C., the conceptual gap between 12,000 and 600 B.C., if not the actual lapse of time, shrinks. We may view this interval of nearly 10,000 years, as knowledgeable people today think of the Norman Conquest, Charlemagne, the birth of Christ, the great dynasties of ancient Egypt, and Vedic astronomers in Central Asia during the interval between 6,000 and 4,000 B.C.

The legacy of these events in the ancient Atlas region, and the policy-fight between Prometheus and the Olympians, persisted so, somehow, over the intervening millennia, to emerge as the pagan mythology of Olympus, as reflected in such places as the Homeric epics. Such, in summation, is the chronicle and its setting.