# MORLD FASCISMA A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

VOLUME 2: L-Z

Cyprian P. Blamires, Editor with Paul Jackson



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to appease the movement by endorsing its main goal of eradicating communism and did little to stop its campaign of physical intimidation against political opponents on the Left. Although not engaging directly in electoral politics, Lapua succeeded in mobilizing broad popular support and pressuring the government into passing anticommunist legislation. However, Lapua alienated many of its bourgeois supporters through its continued lawlessness and escalating demands. Matters came to a head in February 1932 with a muddled rebellion at the town of Mäntsälä, subsequent to which the movement was outlawed.

#### Andres Kasekamp

See Also: "ANTI-" DIMENSION OF FASCISM, THE; BOLSHE-VISM; CONSERVATISM; FINLAND; MARXISM; SOCIALISM

Reference

Rintala, Martin. 1962. Three Generations: The Extreme Right Wing in Finnish Politics. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

## LAROUCHE, LYNDON HERMYLE (born 1922)

U.S. former Quaker and former far-left activist who shifted to the far Right in the 1970s and attracted a following through his writing, speaking, and propagandistic activities. His movement generally operates under front groups such as Food for Peace and the Schiller Institute, and it publishes journals like the New Federalist and the Executive Intelligence Review. LaRouche is associated in particular with anti-Semitic conspiracy theories-in which the British royal family often plays a leading role-and he has developed an extensive intelligence-gathering service. The LaRouchite ideology contains elements of populist antielitism and hostility to a range of targets, including the Left in general, environmentalism, feminism, homosexuality, and organized labor. LaRouchites have called for a dictatorship led by a "humanist" elite.

#### Cyprian Blamires

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LAROUCHITES, THE: See LAROUCHE, LYNDON HERMYLE LATERAN PACTS, THE: See CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE

### LATVIA

The most significant of the various extremist nationalist groups to emerge in Latvia in the interwar years was the Thunder Cross (Perkonkrusts), which was founded in 1933 after its predecessor, the Fire Cross (Ugunskrusts), was banned. The guiding slogan of the Thunder Cross was "Latvia for the Latvians." Led by Gustavs Celminš (1899-1968), the movement was most popular among young, urban, university-educated men. In particular, it channeled resentment of the continued predominance of Germans and Jews in certain professions, such as law and medicine. The Thunder Cross adopted paramilitary attributes and appeared to be gaining popularity, but it never had an opportunity to contest elections. Following the example of Päts in Estonia, Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis declared a state of emergency on 15 May 1934 and arrested the leaders of the Thunder Cross, as well as communists. While claiming to save democracy from the threat of extremism, Ulmanis erected his own authoritarian regime. In 1936 he united the offices of president and prime minister in his own person. Although banned, cells of the Thunder Cross continued to operate underground. Celmiņš was exiled. Despite Ulmanis's adoption of nationalist policies favored by the Thunder Cross, the latter continued to view him as beholden to the business interests of the ethnic minorities. In 1939 the Soviet Union issued an ultimatum to Latvia to authorize the establishment of military bases on her territory, and the following year Latvia was annexed to the USSR. Ulmanis and thousands of his countrymen were deported to Russia, where most perished. In their thirst for revenge against the Soviets, many former members of the

See Also: "ANTI-" DIMENSION OF FASCISM, THE; ANTI-SEMI-TISM; CONSPIRACY THEORIES; DICTATORSHIP; ECOLOGY; FEMINISM; HOMOSEXUALITY; KÜHNEN, MICHAEL; NA-TURE; NEOPOPULISM; TRADES UNIONS; UNITED STATES, THE (POSTWAR); WOMEN