

EXAMINATION OF THE AXIOMATIC FOUNDATIONS
 OF A THEORY OF CHANGE. II

LAURENT LAROUCHE

SECOND PART*

Confrontation with the Thomistic Theory

In the formalization which appeared in an earlier issue of this Journal, we abstained from making any explicit reference to the Thomistic theory of change. It is for the sake of clarity that we chose to present the basic elements of the theory of change without interspersing them with philosophical considerations. Contentwise our axiomatization was aimed at reflecting essentially Thomas Aquinas' doctrine on change. It is now our goal to show this coincidence by reference to pertinent texts of Aquinas.

We quote first the main text which reads: "Some things in the world are certainly in process of change: this we plainly see. Now anything in process of change is being changed by something else. This is so because it is characteristic of things in process of change that they do not yet have the perfection towards which they move, though able to have it; whereas it is characteristic of something causing change to have that perfection already. For to cause change is to bring into being what was previously only able to be, and this can only be done by something that already is: thus fire, which is actually hot, causes wood, which is able to be hot, to become actually hot, and in this way causes change in the wood. Now the same thing cannot at the same time be both actually x and potentially x , though it can be actually x and potentially y ; the actually hot cannot at the same time be potentially hot, though it can be potentially cold. Consequently, a thing in process of change cannot itself cause that same change; it cannot change itself. Of necessity therefore anything in process of change is being changed by something else."¹

*The first part of this paper appeared in *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, vol. IX (1968), pp. 371-384. It will be referred to throughout the remaining parts, as [I]. See additional References given at the end of this part.