

## Modern Astronomy Started With Kepler, Not Galileo

by Michael Steger, LaRouche Youth Movement

Unbeknownst to the American Astronomical Society, which launched its official national campaign to celebrate the 400th anniversary of modern astronomy in January,<sup>1</sup> it was not Galileo's telescopic investigations begun in 1609 which created the unbounded universe we now conceive. Rather, it was the revolutionary vision and discovery brought to the conscious powers of mankind in that same year, by the devoted Platonist and founder of the new astronomy, Johannes Kepler, in his text, *Nova Astronomia*, which makes 2009 truly the 400th anniversary of modern astronomy.<sup>2</sup>

Kepler would not be surprised by the modern state of astronomy. His emotions would be mixed with a sad state of disappointment, not merely by the obsessions with everything dark, or the Aristotelian methods of computer modelling, but also by the obvious decline in mankind's potential for future survival, so much dependent on our ability to conceive a more beautiful universe yet to be discovered. But he would also revel at the opportunity to reconsider his Earth-shattering hypotheses, and expand his conceptions to a much expanded observational field of exploration. I think Kepler would greatly encourage a hands on, extra-solar exploratory mission, and would encourage President Obama to begin a manned mission to Mars now, as a necessary step to avoid another Thirty Years' War.

Let 2009 become not only the 400th anniversary of modern astronomy, but let it also become the year when we reconsider the methods and universal considerations which brought Kepler to advance the powers of science through his astrophysical discoveries. And let those scientists brave enough to step outside the current reign of Newtonian dogma, use Kepler as their guide, as they not only encounter opposition from peer review, but also confront the importance of their own creativity in solving the largest economic crisis since the 14th Century.

### Notes

1. The American Astronomical Society held an opening ceremony for the International Year of Astronomy at its early January 2009 meeting in Long Beach, Calif.
2. See the LaRouche Youth Movement Kepler site:  
<http://www.wlym.com/~animations/>