

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- China Promotes Development Paradigm in Central Asia; NATO Bloc Orders More Sanctions, More War
- NATO Holds Russia ‘Accountable’ for Crimes, Tells China To Refrain from Supporting Russia
- G7 Meeting—Unite on Dismantling Russia, Confronting China
- Greek Minister Tells the Truth, That Sanctions Aim at Overthrowing Putin
- South Africa Pushes Back Against Weaponizing Aid for Ukraine in UN General Assembly
- Hedge Funds Reap 30% Gains in Energy Bets
- Biden at the EU: More Regime Change/’Democratic Resilience’ on Russia’s Borders
- Wang Yi Visited Kabul with Belt and Road on the Agenda
- Since Putin’s ‘Rubles Only’ Announcement, the Ruble Begins Recovery and Stock Market Reopens Up
- More Calls in Germany To Suspend Exit from Nuclear Power

EDITORIAL

China Promotes Development Paradigm in Central Asia, as NATO Bloc Orders More Sanctions, More War

March 24 (EIRNS)—Early today in Kabul, China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a surprise visit to meet with Taliban government leaders, discussing the Belt and Road Initiative, in particular connecting Afghanistan to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship of the BRI. Next week Beijing will host Afghanistan and its neighboring nations at a third regional meeting on promoting connectivity for stability in

Afghanistan and development throughout Central Asia. The concept involved is economic activity for the mutual benefit of all nations, the very principle now desperately required on a world scale.

In contrast, dozens of heads of state and government of major Western nations met today in person in Brussels in a series of three emergency meetings—the 30 nations of NATO, the nations of the Group of Seven, and the 27 nations of the EU’s European Council, and came up only with commitments for more armaments in Eastern Europe, more accusations against Russia, threats to China to refrain from aligning with Russia, and truly delusional notions about the European and world economy.

“What is going on in their minds?” was the response posed by Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche today, opening her weekly webcast. She was referring specifically to the most dangerous of all the notions going into today’s failed emergency meetings, namely, that fighting a nuclear war is now on the table as a possible “contingency” according to top leaders in the West.

Stopping this, and making way for a new world security and development architecture is the focus of the [Schiller Institute’s April 9 international conference](#) and its global petition drive.

Even without nuclear annihilation, the stakes of letting the provoked strife and economic breakdown devolve into more chaos and suffering, guarantee we will have world famine. Before the pandemic, as of 2019, more than 800 million people lacked enough food, and 125 million of them were in extreme stages of hunger. Since then, with hyperinflation, and now the impact of the provoked Ukraine crisis and sanctions, the food crisis and agriculture disruptions have become worse to the realistic prospect of 1 billion people suffering from lack of food, and 400 million in extreme want.

The catastrophe is entirely man-made, and many nations are ready to buck the blackmail and bullying that forced them into line with the axioms causing the economic breakdown in the first place. Who wants to starve their people for the “freedom” of NATO’s “rules-based” world order?

Today, a vote took place in the UN General Assembly on the topic of backing humanitarian aid in Ukraine, but specifically including condemning Russia. Once again, as happened March 2 in a UNGA vote, a significant number of nations abstained—38 this time as against 35 on March 2, rather than get in line with global NATO’s commands.

Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) said yesterday, in an address to the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), speaking of the unprecedented sanctions against Russia, and NATO deployment, “This is all about removing the obstacle in the form of Russia on the way to building a unipolar world.... This is not about Ukraine, this is about a world order in which the United States wants to be the sole sovereign and dominate....”

Mobilize for the Schiller Institute’s petition and conference to create a new world order for peace and development for all.

- Watch **Harley’s Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Friday March 25, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

NATO Holds Russia ‘Accountable’ for Crimes, Tells China To Refrain from Supporting Russia

March 24 (EIRNS)—The summit meeting of the leaders of NATO’s 30 members countries ended today with a statement declaring that the alliance would hold Russia “accountable” for the “crimes” it is committing in Ukraine. NATO also promised to give even more support to the regime in Kiev. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the meeting by video.

The [NATO statement](#) said “We call on President Putin to immediately stop this war and withdraw military forces from Ukraine, and call on Belarus to end its complicity....” It also claimed that “Russia’s attack on

Ukraine threatens global security. Its assault on international norms makes the world less safe. President Putin's escalatory rhetoric is irresponsible and destabilizing....

“We stand in full solidarity with President Zelenskyy, the government of Ukraine, and with the brave Ukrainian citizens who are defending their homeland.... Ukraine has a fundamental right to self-defense under the United Nations Charter.... NATO Allies have stepped up their support and will continue to provide further political and practical support to Ukraine as it continues to defend itself. NATO Allies will also continue to provide assistance in such areas as cybersecurity and protection against threats of a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear nature.”

The statement also made a shot across the bow at China, calling on Beijing “to uphold the international order including the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as enshrined in the UN Charter, to abstain from supporting Russia's war effort in any way, and to refrain from any action that helps Russia circumvent sanctions. We are concerned by recent public comments by PRC officials and call on China to cease amplifying the Kremlin's false narratives, in particular on the war and on NATO, and to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict....

“We reaffirm our commitment to NATO's Open Door Policy under [Article 10 of the Washington Treaty](#),” the statement declared, referring mainly to Sweden and Finland as Stoltenberg basically admitted yesterday that membership for Ukraine is not now on the table.

“The steps we are taking to ensure the security of our Alliance and of the Euro-Atlantic area will require adequate resourcing,” meaning increased defense spending. In line with the NATO treaty, the allies “will further strengthen our individual and collective capacity to resist all forms of attack. At our meeting in Madrid, we will submit additional plans on how to meet the Pledge.”

The [White House](#) followed with its own statement reporting that, “We had the privilege of hearing directly from President Zelenskyy, and we will continue to support him and his government with significant, and

increasing, amounts of security assistance to fight Russian aggression and uphold their right to self-defense.”

After repeating elements of what was already in the NATO statement, Biden concluded: “Between now and the NATO summit in June, we will develop plans for additional forces and capabilities to strengthen NATO’s defenses. We will adopt an updated Strategic Concept to ensure NATO is ready to meet any challenge in the new and more dangerous security environment.”

G7 Meeting Seeks To Unite on Dismantling Russia, Confronting China

March 24 (EIRNS)—The Group of Seven meeting today was primarily an effort to economically cripple Russia. As the White House statement put it: The G7 pledged to block transactions involving the Russian central bank’s gold reserves to hamper any Moscow bid to circumvent Western sanctions. The allies will work jointly “to blunt Russia’s ability to fund.... Putin’s war, including by making clear that any transaction involving gold ... is covered by existing sanctions.” In this brave new world, not only are bank deposits to be seized, but also gold, if coming from Russia, is to be spurned.

The G7 statement included a warning to Russia not to use biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons in Ukraine. “We warn against any threat of the use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons or related material.” ABC News asked President Joe Biden at his press conference following the G7 meeting, whether a Russian chemical weapons attack could trigger a military confrontation between the U.S. and/or NATO with Russia. Biden only said that they would make that decision at the time.

The **White House background briefing** was somewhat more explicit. Key in its actions is breaking China from Russia. The G7 (and also the EU) is to commit to a “new sanctions evasion initiative that’s designed to prevent circumvention or backfilling of our unprecedented measures.” Also, “any transaction involving gold related to the Central Bank of Russia is prohibited.” Boycotting Russian gold is to close “down avenues, for example, for the Russian Central Bank to prop up the ruble.” But they had

to grow “our coalition of countries to deny cutting-edge technology to Russia” and coordinate so as to “prevent the emergence of any safe haven for Russia, whether it’s in China or any other country.” Since China supplies some of “the inputs for foundational technologies to Russia, whether it’s semiconductors or artificial intelligence or quantum or hypersonic flight.... And we just need—we want to make sure that for any of these technologies, including technologies that may be produced in China or designed in China, that we’re shutting down avenues for Russia to benefit from continued transactions with those countries too.”

At a press conference following the G7 meeting, the first question was what used to be a normal question. Regarding the charge that Russia was planning a chemical attack, was there any evidence that such was the case? Biden quickly shot that down, with the pretext, “I won’t answer that. I won’t give intelligence data.” Otherwise, Biden reviewed how he conveyed his non-threat to China, that President Xi Jinping saw all the corporations pulling out of Russia, and if China didn’t see the light and cooperate, China would also be in jeopardy. Biden then claimed that China understands that its economic future is much more closely tied to the West than to Russia.

Greek Minister Tells the Truth, That Sanctions Aim To Overthrow Putin

March 24 (EIRNS)—Greece’s Deputy Foreign Minister, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, proudly proclaimed that the purpose of the sanctions against Russia is to overthrow the government of Russia’s President, Vladimir Putin. “The sanctions ... are dedicated in order to bring down the Putin regime by internal unrest—and this is the idea that we create,” he said, adding they create “a climate into Russia that this act of aggression is going to be costly for the economy of Russia, and to build up the unrest and the opposition to Putin,” Varvitsiotis told the Washington-based daily, *The Hill*.

Varvitsiotis, according to *The Hill*, gave warm praise to President Biden “for corralling democracies to impose coordinated sanctions,” but also called for Turkey to be sanctioned for not joining in with the sanctions

against Russia. His statement raised eyebrows to say the least, *The Hill* pointing out that it contradicted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's repeated line that the sanctions were not aimed at regime change. This raised questions as to whether Varvitsiotis was being overly enthusiastic, or just telling the truth about what is being said behind closed doors.

In Greece the leading opposition party, Syriza, which supported sanctions based on the idea that they was not aimed at regime change, attacked Varvitsiotis for his statement, and attacked the government of Prime Minister Kiriakos Mitsotakis for its policy of sending weapons to Ukraine. Syriza's chief foreign policy spokesman George Katrougalos said, "It is one thing to stand against the Russian invasion with strong sanctions, in order to end it; it is another for Mr. Mitsotakis to involve Greece directly in the war, sending war matériel and announcing that Alexandroupolis is at the forefront of operations. And another, even more dangerous than all, that Mr. Mitsotakis speaks through his Minister in American media about sanctions aimed at overthrowing the government in Russia, in fact even in contrast to the statements of the U.S.A. (Blinken) which clarify that."

Katrougalos apparently still preferred to believe Secretary of State Tony Blinken's line that sanctions were not aimed at overthrowing Putin. "Mitsotakis' strange moves in Ukraine endanger Greece. The government of Mr. Mitsotakis with the doctrine of 'the last Western stronghold to the East' is becoming more and more dangerous, not only for the interests of the Greek people and the international position of the country, but also for the position of the EU and the diplomatic effort for peace in Ukraine."

Despite his obvious bad intentions, Varvitsiotis was only telling the truth and his message should be exploited. The sooner others like Syriza see that the better.

South Africa Pushes Back Against Weaponizing Aid for Ukraine in UN General Assembly

March 24 (EIRNS)—Today was the second day of an emergency UN General Assembly session, involving debate on what resolution text to pass on the topic of UN backing of humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

FLASH: The UN General Assembly approved Resolution ES11-2, “Humanitarian Consequences of the Aggression Against Ukraine,” by a vote of 140 for; 5 against—Russia, Syria, Belarus, North Korea, and Eritrea; and 38 abstentions, including China. The vote is nearly the same as the vote on March 2 to condemn Russia’s alleged “invasion”: 141 for; 5 against; and 35 abstentions.

The resolution approved today was put forward by Ukraine, and titled, “Humanitarian Consequences of the Aggression Against Ukraine.” It condemns Russia for creating the “dire” situation, pushes for humanitarian corridors, and the withdrawal of Russian troops. This resolution claims support of nearly 100 nations. A precursor to Ukraine’s resolution was a text circulated for the last two weeks by Mexico and France.

South Africa has introduced an alternative text, entitled “Humanitarian Situation Emanating Out of the Conflict in Ukraine,” that does not identify Russia for condemnation.

A similar resolution to this one has been available in recent weeks, from Russia, which introduced it last evening in the UN Security Council (joined by Syria, Belarus and the D.P.R.K.), where, as was expected, it failed, given that any measure fails if it is vetoed by any of the five permanent members of the UNSC.

However, very notably, China joined Russia in voting for its UNSC humanitarian resolution. The China spokesperson said that China wants to keep the focus on humanitarian aid, and not on other aspects of the situation. As the UN News reported on the text of the Russian resolution, “Under its terms, the Council would have demanded that civilians are fully protected, that all parties ensure respect for, and protection of, all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in their medical

duties, that they respect international law in connection with objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and allow safe and unhindered passage to destinations outside of Ukraine, including for foreign nationals, without discrimination.”

Russian Ambassador to the UN **Vassily Nebenzia**, speaking to the General Assembly yesterday, said: “We elaborate on this now to let you understand the real essence of the text that Ukraine’s Western sponsors are putting to vote at the UNGA. Apart from its other flaws, it creates a false one-dimensional picture of the developments, ignores the true causes of the Ukrainian crisis, and downplays the role of Western states, who view Ukraine and its people only as a pawn in the geopolitical game against Russia, in inciting that crisis. We will get back to this when the special military operation is over.

Nebenzia called on nations to support the draft proposed by South Africa, which did not contain political elements, saying: “Support for the [South Africa] draft resolution would not only send a signal to Ukraine’s peaceful population that the United Nations is aware of their situation and wants to help. Also, it would be an opportunity to express an attitude towards the unprecedented political and economic pressure that most of you have been exposed to recently through the efforts of Western states.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Hedge Funds Reap 30% Gains in Energy Bets

March 24 (EIRNS)—The *Wall Street Journal* reported March 13 about a surge in hedge fund bets on energy prices after the Russian military operation in Ukraine, with 30% returns in the first two months of the year.

“Soroban Capital Partners LP, a \$10 billion stock-picking hedge fund in New York, is one of the biggest winners, making at least several hundred million dollars on the trade since February, a person familiar with the matter said. Other winners include New York macro fund Castle Hook Partners and value investor Pilgrim Global. The bet was that a years-long

drop in spending on new commodity supply and efforts to limit carbon emissions would push up materials prices and shares of producers, according to people familiar with the firms.

“Commodities-focused funds that made similar wagers are posting outsize returns—about 30% in the first two months of the year in some cases—after years of poor performance.”

Money inflows into general commodity mutual funds and exchange-traded funds increased for the eighth consecutive week through March 2, according to data from Refinitiv Lipper. That marks the longest streak since a 23-week run that ended in 2021. Inflows for the week ended March 2, at \$867 million, were at a record high, according to data going back to 2011.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Biden EU Speech Seeks for More Regime Change, ‘Democratic Resilience’ on Russia’s Borders

March 24 (EIRNS)—President Biden was invited to attend the EU’s European Council summit of 27 nations today. It was the final part of his NATO/G7/EU trifecta. The **White House background briefing** made clear that Europe was to plunge forward with regime-change programs for Belarus, Moldova, and the Caucasus countries! However, “regime change” has been re-christened “democratic resilience.”

New funding of \$320 million is to go to a “European Democratic Resilience Initiative” which aims “to defend human rights, to strengthen democratic and anti-corruption institutions, to support media freedom, and to increase accountability for human rights abuses and violations of international law.” This is directed selectively at the EU’s non-member “Eastern Partnership” countries, deserving of this largesse because they are on the EU border. Biden’s time with the European Council meeting was expected to have the leaders “discuss democratic resilience: the need to continue to bolster the ability of these countries to stand strong in the face of some of these autocratic pressures.” It seems to have worked out so well for Ukraine, it is deemed time to double down!

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Wang Yi Visited Kabul with Belt and Road on the Agenda

March 24 (EIRNS)—This morning, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a surprise visit to Kabul, where he met with Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar. A statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry reports that China welcomed Afghanistan's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, and in particular, extending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan. CPEC's extension to Afghanistan will give it sea access via the port of Gwadar. Wang Yi also expressed China's hope that Afghanistan will fulfill its stated commitment to prevent any external forces from using its territory for action against the security of other nations.

Next week, Beijing will host its third meeting of Afghanistan and neighboring countries, to further regional stability and connectivity.

Wang was an honored guest at Pakistan's national day ceremonies, which this year marked the nation's 75th anniversary. He was also invited to address the March 22-23 Council of Foreign Ministers of the [Organization for Islamic Cooperation \(OIC\)](#) that was meeting in Islamabad, and whose agenda included support for Afghanistan.

It was also a topic of [Wang's bilateral talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan](#). The Chinese readout reported in part: "The two sides fully recognized the positive role of the Foreign Ministers' Dialogue and the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Afghan Issue Among the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan. Imran Khan said, China-Afghanistan-Pakistan cooperation is conducive to stability in Afghanistan and its role as a hub in regional connectivity. Pakistan is ready to work with China to jointly advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan."

Since Putin's 'Rubles Only' Announcement, the Ruble Begins Recovery and Stock Market Reopens Up

March 24 (EIRNS)—In the last 24 hours, coordinated developments saw Russia's ruble and its stock market move into healthier territory. Putin had explained yesterday in a videoconference government meeting, “During the last few weeks, as you know, several Western countries adopted unlawful decisions to freeze Russian assets. The West has de facto destroyed the credibility of its currencies.” He reasoned that it made no sense to employ “compromised” currencies. Then he declared that “unfriendly” countries would have to pay for their purchases from Russia—notably including natural gas—in rubles.

Following that, yesterday afternoon the ruble surged to a three-week high of 95 rubles per dollar, before settling down a bit, and also gained 3.5% against the euro, at 110.5 rubles per euro. This morning it was still gaining against both the dollar and the euro.

Also this morning, the Moscow Exchange (MOEX) reopened in a designed fashion, for limited trading. Despite having suspended most of its transactions on Feb. 28, it opened moving strongly upward. The ruble-based MOEX benchmark went up more than 11% to 2,743 points. It resumed trading in 33 of the 50 Russian equities, including shares of Gazprom, Sberbank, Aeroflot, and other domestic firms. The oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil were up by 20% and 16%, respectively. Rusal, the aluminum company, was up more than 14%, and Norilsk Nickel more than 22%.

Importantly, the Bank of Russia central bank banned short-selling on stocks, as foreign investors had to hold onto their stock purchases until April 1, that is, for an unheard-of eight days! Also, trading was limited to just four hours. It is almost as if trading of stocks were a secondary activity to the companies themselves.

Since Putin gave the central bank one week to work out the details of the “only-ruble” sales, there was no little confusion this morning as to what the future would bring. Director General of Zukunft Gas Timm Kehler

admitted to Germany's DPA news agency: "We took the message that Russia wants [us] to pay for gas supplies only in rubles with great confusion. We can't predict at this moment what specific implications this will have for the gas trade." The head of Austrian OMV Group maintained that there was no contractual basis to change their payment currency, and said they were going to continue to pay for Russian gas in euros. And Japan's Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said that he didn't "quite understand" what Russia's intention is with the ruble payment order, or how Russia would carry it out.

But day one of the transition did provide some answers. Serbia, a friendly country, gets its Russian natural gas via Bulgaria, an unfriendly country. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said that Moscow's decision raises a problem for them, as Bulgaria has declared its unwillingness to switch to rubles in gas payments. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov addressed the matter, saying that the issue is closed, and Bulgaria will have to pay in rubles "whether they like it or not." However, this "does not apply to Serbia. The problem remains to be solved and, naturally, Serbia's concerns will be our top priority. It's absolutely normal, [Vucic] is right, this can really be a problematic situation, because in this case, Bulgaria took hostile steps against us, so they will have to pay in rubles, whether they want to or not, whether they like it or not." Earlier this week, former deputy energy minister of Bulgaria Yavor Kuyumdzhiev said the country greatly depends on Russian gas and lacks alternatives.

SCIENCE AND CULTURE

More Calls To Suspend the Exit from Nuclear Power in Germany

March 24 (EIRNS)—Germany's *Bildzeitung* reports, "After France, the Netherlands and Belgium, the British also want to produce more nuclear power. Specifically, Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to build six new reactors! Reason: to become more independent of natural gas! And Germany? It will shut down its last three reactors at the end of 2022!"

Remarks by Economics Minister Robert Habeck (Green Party) at the beginning of the Ukraine war that Germany must become more independent of “Putin’s gas,” only make sense if the nuclear exit by the end of this year is suspended, *Bildzeitung* writes. Moreover, “Many countries turn on nuclear power plants, Germany turns them off: Is Habeck taking our energy future for a ride?” the editors ask.

The industry association KernD (Kerntechnik Deutschland e.V) has already offered the government to continue operating the power plants. Prof. Jörg Starflinger of the University of Stuttgart Institute of Nuclear Technology stated, “The German nuclear power plants are in good shape and could continue to operate for several years without any problems.” Bavaria’s Minister President Markus Söder (CSU) told *Bild*: “Germany must not shut down without thinking. Without nuclear power, it will be cold and expensive next winter. As a bridge, it still needs nuclear power for at least three years.”

The economic wing of the CDU/CSU is now demanding that the three shutdown reactors be brought back online, and that the operating life-span of the three active reactors be extended by up to 10 years. With one of them telling *Bild* that Germany cannot play off energy independence from Russia “and climate protection against each other.” And Christopher Vogt, the FDP caucus leader in the Schleswig-Holstein’s state legislature calls on Habeck to “examine more seriously whether it is possible to continue to use the three remaining nuclear power plants and also those that were only recently taken off the grid, such as Brokdorf, for a time.”