

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

An Inflection Point in History

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—We are at the end of an era, and the dawning of a new epoch for human civilization.

But we also stand at the edge of the abyss: Anglo-American NATO is unwilling to release its hegemony, and is choosing policies that will lead, inevitably, to war with Russia, China, or both. Catastrophic war. Unsurvivable war.

The humiliating weakness of the Anglo-American alliance is on full display with the disgraceful decision by the Biden administration to send cluster munitions to Ukraine. These weapons, decades old and worse for the wear, would release their “clusters” of mini-weapons, with an expected failure rate that would leave tens or hundreds of thousands of tiny explosives littering the fields of the conflict areas, making agriculture hazardous or impossible for years.

Why send weapons that are banned by a treaty signed by 120 nations (although not the U.S.)? Simple. The supposedly mighty West—whose leaders have boasted that sanctions are “crippling” Russia—can’t produce enough ammunition! There are no more normal 155mm shells available, and these cluster munition shells are compatible with the same artillery currently in use by Ukraine.

So much for claiming the mantle of moral authority in the comic-book-like battle between “democracies” and “autocracies”!

Some hope that from the conflict between the old order and the new centers of meaningful decision-making in the Global South, the latter will emerge victorious. But the true victory for humanity is a *joint* victory. Rather than new poles of power, a new *system* of relations is demanded.

Consider remarks by the [Russian Foreign Minister](#), speaking to a publication in Indonesia, where he is attending the East Asia Summit and

an ASEAN meeting: “Western egocentrism and disregard for the interests of the Global South and Global East encourage the latter to look for alternative cooperation formats across all areas. The seizure of Russian gold and currency reserves in the United States and Europe have led the international community to realize that no one is immune from expropriation of tangible assets that are kept in Western jurisdictions.”

“Everyone can see that new globally meaningful decision-making centers are strengthening their positions in Eurasia, the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America,” the diplomat emphasized.

While “de-dollarization” is real and is happening at an increasing speed, the replacement for the internationalized Anglo-American dollar system is not the Chinese renminbi, the Russian ruble, or even gold. What is required is a commitment to a new form of relations among nations, *including* a transformed United States and NATO. The world is providing a wake-up call—can we rouse the sleeping morality, the slumbering potential of NATO-land?

Rather than attempts to eliminate Russia from the map, that world will witness the elimination of poverty, through increasing the productive powers of labor, throwing off the Malthusian yoke of green ideology, and investing in our nurturing, synthetic environment of higher infrastructure platforms.

See that future! The Grand Inga hydroelectric complex provides power to tens of millions of productive Africans. An updated North American Water and Power Alliance brings ample water to parched regions of the U.S. and Mexico. The Central Asian Republics see hydrological upgrades, for navigation and agriculture both. Lake Chad is refilled by the Transaqua inter-basin water transfer system. And nuclear fusion makes desalination possible on an agricultural scale. The mysteries of dark matter reveal themselves to the power of human reason; breakthroughs in biology unleash fundamental improvements in controlling infectious disease; and the hopeful sounds and sights of classical composition delight the mind, by surpassing the senses.

This is the world that future humanity demands of us, today.

Let us end the scourge of war, to devote ourselves to truly human pursuits. Let us ensure to an increasing share of humanity, the precious gift of living with the knowledge that life was worth living, that one's life was *necessary*.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Thursday July 13, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

India Among Two Dozen Nations Halving Poverty Rate Over 15 Years

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Poverty in India, the world's most populous country, has plummeted over 15 years. A remarkable 415 million people exited poverty over the period from 2005-2006 to 2019-2021, according to a report by the UN Development Program. Over the time period, which also saw population growth, the incidence of poverty fell from 55.1% to 16.4%, from 645 million people to 230 million.

India's population considered to be deprived under a nutrition measure declined from 44.3% to 11.8%. For drinking water, the decline was from 16.4% to 2.7%. For electricity: 29% to 2.1%

The [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) (MPI) is calculated for 110 nations, and the UNDP reports that 25 have halved their poor populations over the past decade and a half. In addition to India, these include Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Serbia, and Vietnam. The factors employed by the UNDP's index include nutrition, child mortality, school duration and attendance, cooking fuel availability, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, and assets. (*EIR* has not had the opportunity to study in detail the UNDP's methodology in constructing its MPI—including notoriously under- and misreported factors such as the so-called “informal sector”—and

recommends a degree of caution in that regard. To wit: the Honduras numbers are known to significantly understate the reality of poverty on the ground in that country.)

In Cambodia, for example, the reduction from 5.6 million living in poverty to 2.8 million took place in under 8 years.

Two-thirds of all poor people (730 million) live in middle-income countries. And young people make up a great portion of the world's poor—the poverty rate among children is 27.7%, compared to 13.4% for adults.

Overall, the UN figures show that rapid development is possible.

Lavrov Tells Indonesian Daily, a Multipolar World Is Emerging, Not a New Cold War

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—In an interview yesterday with the Indonesian daily *Kompas*, Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) said the current situation is not that of an emerging new Cold War but an emerging multipolar world.

“We do not define the current phase of international relations as a new Cold War. The issue at hand is different and is about something different, namely, the formation of a multipolar international order. This is an objective process. Everyone can see that new globally meaningful decision-making centers are strengthening their positions in Eurasia, the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America,” Lavrov said.

Lavrov begins his visit today to Indonesia and will participate in the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum on July 14.

Lavrov told *Kompas*, “With regard to the U.S.-led collective West, these countries are trying to slow these processes down and turn them around. Their goal is not to strengthen global security or engage in joint development, but to maintain their hegemony in international affairs and to keep on pursuing their neo-colonial agenda, or in simple terms, to continue to address their own problems at the expense of others, as they are accustomed to do.

“Unilateral economic sanctions and our Western colleagues’ overall selfish foreign policy undermine global food and energy security. Their actions have complicated things for the developing countries. Enormous amounts of money that could have been spent on promoting international growth, including on helping the countries that are most in need, are being burned up in the form of thousands of tonnes of military equipment and ammunition supplied to Ukrainian neo-Nazis,” he said.

“However, this coin has a brighter side. Western egocentrism and disregard for the interests of the Global South and Global East encourage the latter to look for alternative cooperation formats across all areas. The seizure of Russian gold and currency reserves in the United States and Europe have led the international community to realize that no one is immune from expropriation of tangible assets that are kept in Western jurisdictions. Not just Russia, but a number of other countries are consistently reducing their dependence on the U.S. dollar and transitioning to alternative payment systems and payments in national currencies.

“At the same time, the effectiveness of country associations without Western participation is on the rise. The SCO and BRICS are a case of modern multilateral diplomacy without leaders or followers where decisions are made based on consensus. We welcome Indonesia’s interest in strengthening cooperation with these associations, which undoubtedly have a great future,” Lavrov asserted.

His entire interview is posted in English on the Foreign Ministry website.

Central Banks, Sovereign Wealth Funds Are Buying Gold, and Keeping It Close

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—This year’s Global Sovereign Asset Management Study, the annual survey of the holdings and stratagems of nearly 60 central banks and even more sovereign wealth funds by the Invesco investment firm, caught the eye of London’s Reuters news service and *Financial Times*. Not surprisingly, between the impact of inflation and Western economic sanctions, central banks carried out record gold purchases in

2022 and the 1st quarter of 2023. (China, Turkiye, Singapore, India and “Middle East” countries are the only names given in these press accounts.)

No surprise: The survey also found that a “substantial share” of the central banks surveyed, are not only purchasing gold, but keeping their gold reserves at home, after the precedent of Russia seeing half of its reserves seized under Western sanctions. Only 50% held their gold at home in 2020; now 68% of the central banks surveyed are doing so. Bank of England holdings of other central banks’ gold has dropped by 12% since 2021—a surprisingly low drop, considering that the Bank of England stole Venezuela’s gold reserves which it had been storing at the BOE, a robbery upheld by the British courts when Venezuela sued.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

NATO Communiqué Accuses Russia as Being the ‘Most Significant Threat’ to European Security

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The leaders of NATO, meeting in their summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, yesterday, issued a communiqué which is a Hobbesian 90-paragraph nightmare of lies appointing NATO as the arbiter of the “rules-based international order.” Anyone who deviates from that order, defined only as being in accordance with the UN Charter, is thus deemed a threat which NATO must “deter” or otherwise counter. The number one threat defined by the communiqué is, not surprisingly, Russia.

“Peace in the Euro-Atlantic area has been shattered,” the communiqué declares in paragraph 5. “The Russian Federation has violated the norms and principles that contributed to a stable and predictable European security order. The Russian Federation is the most significant and direct threat to Allies’ security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.”

“Russia bears full responsibility for its illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, which has gravely undermined Euro-Atlantic and global security and for which it must be held fully accountable,” it goes on later, never mentioning NATO’s expansion right up to Russia’s borders. “We continue to condemn in the strongest

terms Russia's blatant violations of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and OSCE commitments and principles. We do not and will never recognize Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexations, including Crimea."

Given that logic, what comes next is no surprise: "Russia must immediately stop this illegal war of aggression, cease its use of force against Ukraine, and completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its forces and equipment from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters. We urge all countries not to provide any kind of assistance to Russia's aggression and condemn all those who are actively facilitating Russia's war." And of course, it endorses Zelenskyy's "peace formula," that requires Russian capitulation even before negotiations can begin.

The alliance is also frightened by "Russia's deepening military integration with Belarus, including the deployment of advanced Russian military capabilities and military personnel in Belarus" which "has implications for regional stability and the defense of the Alliance."

"NATO does not seek confrontation and poses no threat to Russia," it lies. "In light of its hostile policies and actions, we cannot consider Russia to be our partner. Any change in our relationship depends on Russia halting its aggressive behavior and fully complying with international law. We remain willing to keep open channels of communication with Moscow to manage and mitigate risks, prevent escalation, and increase transparency."

Later in the document, NATO accuses Russia of breaking the global arms control architecture. "Russia's violations and selective implementation of its arms control obligations and commitments have contributed to the deterioration of the broader security landscape," it says in paragraph 51. "We condemn Russia's purported suspension of the New START treaty and failure to comply with its legally-binding obligations under the Treaty. We call on Russia to return to full implementation of the Treaty as well as to act responsibly and engage constructively to reduce strategic and nuclear risks. We also condemn Russia's decision to withdraw

from the landmark Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which further demonstrates Russia's continued disregard for arms control, and is the latest in a series of actions to undermine Euro-Atlantic security.”

Russian Ambassador to U.S. Says NATO Communiqué Confirms Anti-Russia Drive

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Ambassador to the U.S. [Anatoly Antonov](#), in comments posted last night on the embassy's website, noted that the communiqué issued by the NATO summit yesterday confirms the anti-Russia drive of NATO. Antonov indicated that in doing so, the alliance is burying its own responsibility for the conflict involving Ukraine.

“We are stunned by the outright falsification of the truth, which is used by the Summit participants to justify their aggressive policy against Russia,” Antonov said. “Our enemies without any evidence are trying to lay on us the responsibility for the crisis of the European security architecture. Once again they pretend that they know nothing about the promise, given to Mikhail Gorbachev by ex-Secretary of State James Baker about non-expansion of NATO to the East. After the collapse of the U.S.S.R. Washington and its European satellites deliberately brought the military infrastructure closer to our borders, creating unacceptable threats to the security of the Russian Federation.”

“Moreover, the North Atlantic bloc is still talking about an ‘unprovoked Russian invasion,’ while Jens Stoltenberg admitted that the Alliance had been preparing Ukraine for a conflict since 2014,” he continued. “NATO members have the impudence to talk about the ‘defensive nature’ of the Alliance and that there is no desire for a confrontation with us.”

Antonov attributed the anti-Russia thrust of the communiqué to the unipolar world order ideology flowing from Washington. “The United States is ready to teeter on the edge of the abyss for the sake of maintaining its dominance in the international arena,” he said. “It cannot bear the thought of losing its global leadership based on controlling other countries with a colonial bridle and siphoning off their wealth. It pulls its allies

toward the conflict. At the same time, it prefers to send Ukrainians for slaughter.”

Antonov concluded with a warning: “The meeting in Vilnius has demonstrated the bloc’s intention to concentrate more and more troops on Russian borders. We have nowhere to retreat. The aggressive decisions of the Summit will not undermine Russia’s confidence in the rightness of its actions. We have no doubt that all goals of the Special Military Operation will be fully achieved.”

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov made a very simple point but one which has not been acknowledged by NATO. “It’s extremely important to realize under the current conditions that the Russian military infrastructure has never shifted towards Western Europe, it has always moved in the opposite direction,” he said. “It’s certainly regrettable that the Europeans fail to realize this mistake.” This came after Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda, in an interview with *The Times* of London, called the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act “dead.”

Vilnius Summit Claims China Challenges Its Interests, Security and Values

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—After convicting Russia of aggressive warfare and other transgressions against the “rules-based international order,” the [NATO summit communiqué](#) in Lithuania over July 11-12 turned to China. “The People’s Republic of China’s stated ambitions and coercive policies challenge our interests, security and values,” it declares. “The P.R.C. employs a broad range of political, economic, and military tools to increase its global footprint and project power, while remaining opaque about its strategy, intentions and military build-up. The P.R.C.’s malicious hybrid and cyber operations and its confrontational rhetoric and disinformation target Allies and harm Alliance security. The P.R.C. seeks to control key technological and industrial sectors, critical infrastructure, and strategic materials and supply chains. It uses its economic leverage to create strategic dependencies and enhance its influence. It strives to subvert the

rules-based international order, including in the space, cyber and maritime domains.”

However, “We remain open to constructive engagement with the P.R.C., including to build reciprocal transparency, with a view to safeguarding the Alliance’s security interests,” it says in the next paragraph, but then the communiqué makes clear that “constructive engagement” means whatever NATO says it means. “We call on the P.R.C. to play a constructive role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, to condemn Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, to abstain from supporting Russia’s war effort in any way, to cease amplifying Russia’s false narrative blaming Ukraine and NATO for Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, and to adhere to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. We particularly call on the P.R.C. to act responsibly and refrain from providing any lethal aid to Russia.”

Top Russian Senator Warns U.S. Supplying Cluster Munitions to Ukraine May Constitute a War Crime

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matvienko, during a visit to Beijing, warned that the U.S. provision of cluster munitions to the Kiev regime could constitute a war crime. “The Collective West and NATO aren’t at all interested in resolving the conflict peacefully,” she said. “On the contrary, they are interested in prolonging and escalating the conflict. Increasing weapons supplies to Ukraine are yet another proof of that. And now, a never-before-seen and criminal decision to provide Ukraine with cluster munitions has been made. If it happens, I believe that it would be a war crime. It runs counter to all international documents.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Putin Discusses Trans-Atlantic Bank Blowout with VTB Bank Chief

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—President Vladimir Putin met yesterday with Andrei Kostin, the CEO of Russia’s second-largest bank, VTB. Kostin reported to the Russian President that VTB bank is in good shape, posting

profits since the fourth quarter of 2022, despite Western sanctions. He pointed to the bank's steps towards "creating a new payments and settlements infrastructure involving rubles and currencies of friendly states" as a major reason for their success. We have been able to do this because VTB is present in the major Asian countries, such as China and India, as well as the CIS countries, he noted.

By such efforts, "we have probably become somewhat immune [to the sanctions] ... and we have enhanced our sovereignty in this field." That is key, he added, because the West is facing a 2008-like bank blowout. He told Putin: "Look at what is now happening in the United States. This is virtually the largest financial and banking crisis since 2008, and it is already spreading to Europe. This is what we have been talking about, that sanctions against Russia are a double-edged sword. In effect, by using sanctions against Russia, the West has demolished the global trade system and caused an inflation surge. Western attempts to resolve this problem by standard methods devalued bank assets, and we can see the result of this."

Putin replied drily: "Perhaps what you have said about raising the level of independence and sovereignty is rather timely, considering greater negative trends in the U.S. banking system."

Kostin agreed, telling Putin that he believes "that it is possible to considerably reshape the financial system in several years."

U.S. May Be Attempting To Sabotage Egypt's Efforts To Bring Peace to Sudan

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The U.S. appears to have launched an effort to sabotage Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi's effort to bring peace to Sudan through holding a summit of leaders of Sudan's neighboring countries. This summit, which will take place on July 13, will include Egypt, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Libya and hopefully Eritrea. All these countries have been affected by tens of thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing the fighting between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces.

On July 10-11 U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee and U.S. Ambassador to Sudan John Godfrey showed up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where they were involved in two meetings related to mediating a peace agreement in Sudan. The first was a meeting of the Quartet of mediators from the regional group Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) comprising leaders from Kenya, South Sudan, Djibouti and Ethiopia, where it was proposed to send a pan-African military force into Sudan and a no-fly zone supposedly to protect civilians.

The Sudanese army and Transitional Sovereignty Council, which represent the government of Sudan, refused to attend the IGAD quartet meeting accusing the chairman of the Quartet, Kenyan President William Ruto, of supporting the Rapid Support Forces, although the RSF did send a representative.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry issued a statement denouncing the Quartet's proposal to explore the possibility of deploying the East Africa Standby Force (EASF) of the African Union into Sudan. They also protested a statement by Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed about a power vacuum in Sudan and the need to impose a no-fly zone in Sudan, adding that any deployment of foreign troops would be considered an "act of aggression."

The second meeting was of civilian delegations from the Forces for Freedom and Change, neither the Sudanese Army nor the Rapid Security Forces attended it.

Both Assistant Secretary of State Molly Phee and U.S. Ambassador to Sudan John Godfrey were in and around these meetings, voicing U.S. policy. Neither one mentioned the Egyptian initiative.

In a statement Phee called on both sides to "immediately end the fighting." Phee also held a meeting with former Sudanese Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, who had been removed from power by Sovereignty Council President and Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. Hamdok is the darling of the "Western international community." The

attempt by the U.S. to broker a ceasefire during negotiations in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, totally failed and has been suspended.

Unlike these two efforts, the Egyptian initiative is attempting to bring all the parties, i.e. the neighboring countries and the two warring factions, into a process that will hopefully bring an end to the fighting and stabilize the country.

Citing diplomatic sources, the semi-official Egyptian daily *Al Ahram*, Sudan will be high on the agenda of the Russia-Africa summit to be inaugurated by Russian President Vladimir Putin on July 27-28 in St. Petersburg. Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council and Sudanese Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan will attend.

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

China Manned Space Agency Reveals China's First Steps on the Moon

July 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Further details regarding the upcoming [Chinese lunar program](#) were revealed by Zhang Hailian, the deputy chief designer of China's manned spaceflight project at the Ninth China Commercial Aerospace Forum held in Wuhan on July 12.

“The plan is to launch two carrier rockets to send a lunar lander and a manned spacecraft to a lunar orbit, respectively,” Zhang said. “The craft and lunar lander will rendezvous and dock with each other, and then taikonauts will enter the lander.

“As the lunar lander descends and arrives at the preset area on the lunar surface, taikonauts will carry out scientific tasks and collect samples.

“After completing the planned tasks, taikonauts will return to the lander, which will lift them back to the lunar orbit to dock with their spacecraft.

“In the final step, the spacecraft will fly taikonauts back to Earth with lunar samples.

“Chinese researchers are working on the development of the Long March-10 carrier rocket, a new generation of manned spacecraft, lunar lander, lunar landing spacesuit, manned lunar rover, and other equipment, said Zhang Hailian, deputy chief designer with the CMSA at a space industry forum in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province.

“The new carrier rocket will have three and a half stages with a carrying capacity of about 27 tonnes to the lunar transfer orbit, and the rocket body is five meters in diameter.

“The new generation of manned spacecraft has three parts—an escape tower, a re-entry capsule, and a service capsule, Zhang said...

“The landing rover will consist of two parts—a landing section and a propulsion section, and can send two taikonauts to the lunar surface at the same time...

“In addition, the spacesuit being developed for the Moon landing, with a single working time of no less than eight hours, will feature better mobilities to help taikonauts walk, climb, squat, drive, and operate machines...”