

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

As Institutions Lose Legitimacy, What Will Replace Them?

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—To what institutions, to what authorities can people of the world turn to seek redress of injustice, to discuss development, to achieve progress?

To the World Bank or International Monetary Fund? Not if you value your sovereignty and don't want to drive up national debt on "green" energy hoaxes, ill-suited to power a national grid.

To the United States? Not today. The U.S. offers lectures and "security" entanglements that make nations less secure. Have the efforts to induce Ukraine into NATO served that country well?

To the United Nations? It is the only truly global forum for international discussion, and in that respect plays an important and presently unique role. But did the UN Security Council prevent the United States from its British-induced war in Iraq, which has left hundreds of thousands dead and harmed millions? Did the International Criminal Court take on the liars who created that war, such as Tony Blair and George W. Bush? Can it be taken seriously today when it issues an arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin?

Who will defend the survival of mankind, faced with the entirely unnecessary, insane, but nonetheless looming threat of Anglo-American NATO-led nuclear war on the two fronts of Russia and China?

A mandate exists for new, or revived institutions, capable of addressing the world's needs and of securing a peace of development, through a new security and development architecture.

In what guise will this new leadership emerge?

The expanding Shanghai Cooperation Organization? The expanding BRICS? The China-assisted diplomacy that led to a renewal of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran? The shifting political terrain in the Sahel region?

These new foci of discussion and decision-making give ample reason for optimism.

The completion of the Algerian East-West Highway, the commitments made at the Central Africa Business Forum to make Central Africa an “energy-poverty-free zone” by 2030, the upcoming lunar landings by Russia and India—these achievements and intentions represent what should be the weekly lived norm of civilized humanity: growth, development, knowledge, and peace.

But the hard work of changing Anglo-American NATO—through an *international* effort—cannot be avoided.

Some are so self-blinded that they cannot see the beautiful future that is the true destiny of our beautiful species; their meager sense of self-interest is that of preventing the growth of others, like the Zeus of Aeschylus, or like a playground bully. Hell-bent on destroying Russia’s sovereignty and China’s growth, Anglo-American-led NATO sets the world on a hell-bound course of war, economic misery, and ugliness. If this fiercely suicidal intent is not arrested, all that humanity has toiled for, all the beauty we have created, may be lost in the inferno of global nuclear war.

Lyndon LaRouche and the LaRouche movement have been committed for over half a century to achieving the paradigm shift that is now more possible than ever.

Will you take on that challenge?

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday August 15, 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

Algerian East-West Highway Completed

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Saturday, Aug. 14, Algeria completed the 1,216-km East-West Highway, marking the conclusion of more than a decade of construction work. The final eastern section, 84 km in length, required extensive grading work; the road passes through hilly terrain on its way to the Tunisian border.

Construction on the roadway began in 2007, and was performed in sections, with individual sections providing benefits along the way towards achievement of the full project. It now stretches from the Algerian border with Morocco, near Oujda, to Tunisia, where further connectivity is needed.

The Chinese CITIC Consortium was the contractor for the final, eastern section, whose construction involved the training of thousands of local workers.

Lighting Up Central Africa by 2030

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—Africa has some of the lowest rates of electrification in the world. In Niger only 3% of its population has access to electricity; Chad 9%; Liberia 11%; Burkina Faso, 20%; Mauritania 30%; Mali 40%; and most others have between 40 and 60%. Only the population of South Africa has 95% access to electricity. A total of 580 million Africans lack electricity, according to the International Energy Organization. The worst-affected countries are in Central Africa.

A memorandum of understanding was signed at the meeting of the Central Africa Business Forum (CABEF) to make the Central Africa region an “energy poverty free zone” by 2030. The signers included the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), and Africa’s second major oil producer, Angola. Their idea is to create a Central African Pipeline System, which, instead of exporting energy to Europe and the West, where most of the revenues go to

pay off foreign debt, would distribute it throughout Central Africa. The project would include the construction of gas-fired power stations, refineries, and gas-liquefaction plants. The energy generation would bring power to homes, businesses, and new industries, including processing resources such as iron ore, bauxite, and copper, which are now exported without any processing. The plan would entail laying 6,500 km of new pipeline, initially, across all central countries.

In Central Africa alone there are reserves of oil estimated at more than 31 billion barrels with five of the ten African oil producers located in the region: Gabon, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, and Angola. There is significant involvement of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) in many of the countries in the region.

Equatorial Guinea's Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima laid out a timeline for the project during a meeting organized by the African Energy Chambers at the end of last year. His country and Cameroon are working on the first phase, which will connect through Chad.

“The D.R.C. would connect through Angola and Central Africa, as they are already providing products through that direction. Congo-Brazzaville is developing an FPSO [floating production storage and offloading] for liquefied natural gas, which in the future, will need to be connected with a pipeline.”

In a clearly related development, Chad passed legislation last March to nationalize the country's hydro-carbon sector, after ExxonMobil pulled out of the country. While the company had sold its concession to the London-based Sahara Energy for over \$400 million, the deal was deemed illegal by the Chad government, which has threatened to expropriate these assets.

The plan is initially concerned with Central Africa, but it will without doubt serve as an example for other hydro-carbon producers, such as Niger, which could join the projects. Another example is Egypt, a significant gas producer, which in 2018 had already implemented a similar policy under which Germany's Siemens had completed the construction of the world's

largest combined-cycle gas-fired power station, generating no less than 14.5 GW. Built in a record 30 months, the plant increased Egypt's installed capacity by more than 50%.

The Central African Pipeline threatens to overturn the European Union's policy of so-called "energy independence" from Russia and their fantasies of turning Africa into a source for its proclaimed green energy at the expense of African industrial development, a key component of the murderous climate-change policy.

Naturally, the environmentalists have attacked the plan, including the South Africa-based Africa Climate Foundation, which in the last year alone has received \$6.5 million from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Niger's General Tchiani Agrees to Talks with ECOWAS Leaders

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—Following a several-hour Aug. 12 meeting in Niamey, between Nigerien coup leader [Gen. Abdourahamane Tchiani](#) and a group of Nigerian Islamic scholars, led by Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau, Sheikh Bala Lau reported Aug. 13 that General Tchiani is willing to hold direct talks with ECOWAS leaders, according to Al Jazeera Aug. 13.

Al Jazeera quoted Sheikh Lau saying that Tchiani has "accepted to have fully direct discussions with the leaders of ECOWAS. So, we want them to select a place to meet. Do they intend to meet there in Niger, in Nigeria, or where else [do] they think is better for them?" A time and place for the talks is to be determined "in the coming days."

Sheikh Bala Lau's mission to Niamey was reportedly approved by ECOWAS chairman and Nigerian President Bola Tinubu. Lau reported that General Tchiani "claimed the coup was well intended" and that it was carried out to "stave off an imminent threat that would have affected" Nigeria as well as Niger. But he added that it was "painful" that "ECOWAS had issued an ultimatum to restore Bazoum without hearing "their side of the matter."

While this news was cautiously welcomed by the State Department and other Western governments, that was not the case with statements made last night to state television by junta spokesman Gen. Amadou Abdramane, that the junta intends to prosecute deposed President Mohamed Bazoum for high treason and “undermining state security.” Abdramane said that sufficient evidence had been gathered to prosecute Bazoum and his “local and foreign accomplices” before “competent national and international authorities.”

The treason accusation is said to be based on Bazoum’s post-coup exchanges with high-ranking West African politicians and their “international mentors,” whom the junta charges with making false allegations and attempting to derail a peaceful transition in order to justify a military intervention into Niger. No foreign nations were named, nor a date set for Bazoum’s trial. AP reports that before the announcement about Bazoum’s prosecution, a member of the junta’s communications team had told journalists that the junta had approved talks with ECOWAS.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Zelenskyy’s Regime Worries About Potential Domestic Unrest

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ukraine’s Center for Countering Disinformation (CCD) began recently issuing regular reports countering alleged “sophisticated Russian propaganda” aimed at destabilizing the Ukraine regime. Its latest such piece, an Aug. 8 article titled “How Russia Undermines Ukraine from the Inside,” reveals that Zelenskyy’s National Security and Defense Council (of which CCD is a part) fears it is becoming sufficiently discredited in the eyes of the Ukrainian people, that it needs to publicly answer the dissent.

“In the near future, the Kremlin plans to provoke an internal Ukrainian crisis in order to disrupt the pace of counteroffensive operations in the fall and winter. They are trying to shift public opinion to unconstructive criticism of the military command and the search for ‘culprits,’ ” CCD warns. It worries that the Russian propaganda campaign “instills in the

Ukrainian consciousness the narrative that the Ukrainian government is primarily to blame for the war.”

But in listing the four “main lines of division of Ukrainian society” which it alleges “Russian propaganda” plays upon, CCD makes clear that the regime’s problem is not “Russian propaganda” spread by alleged “controlled Ukrainian and foreign ‘leaders of public opinion,’ ” but the existence of those divisions, which are growing. The CCD warns:

- of resentment over the relative safety of authorities in Kyiv, protected by air defense systems and living off Western aid, as compared to life in the regions;
- that “a certain part of society supports ... and spreads” the “thesis that ‘the Ukrainian army is largely made up of volunteers,’ and Western financial and military aid is stolen by the authorities and military leadership”;
- that “the topic of corruption and misappropriation of budget funds is gaining momentum,” feeding the idea “that all military commissars are bribe-takers, and territorial recruitment centers are illegal”; and, lastly,
- the “nonsense about the alleged sale of organs of wounded soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on the European black market.”

Russia Arming Its Most Advanced Submarines with Hypersonic Missiles

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—Reuters quotes Alexei Rakhmanov, chief executive officer of the United Shipbuilding Corporation, telling RIA Novosti today that the Project 885M Yasen-class nuclear attack submarines will be armed with the Zircon hypersonic cruise missile. “Work in this direction is already underway,” he said.

The Russian Federation Navy has three Yasen-class submarines in service, a fourth one in sea trials, and five more under construction.

German Finance Minister Lindner ‘Shoulder to Shoulder’ with Ukraine

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—Arriving Monday morning for a surprise trip to Kiev, German Finance Minister Christian Lindner has assured Ukraine of the German government’s continued support. Kiev Mayor Vitali Klitschko, following a meeting with Lindner, wrote on Telegram that he had stressed that Ukraine urgently needs “air defense systems and long-range weapons.”

“Ukraine must not lose this war,” Lindner said after his arrival, claiming that Ukraine is ostensibly defending Western values: “What is at stake here is the future of the European order of peace and freedom.”

The German Finance Ministry wants to support the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance in making the country more attractive for foreign direct investment and providing concrete support to the regime’s administration, Lindner said. Part of that support is a debt moratorium already signed by the EU with Ukraine until 2027. Furthermore, unspecified support is announced for economic and infrastructure reconstruction in Ukraine.

In time with Lindner’s trip to Kiev, his Free Democrats pressured Chancellor Olaf Scholz (SPD) to hurry up with the decision for the delivery of Taurus missiles to Ukraine. “It is urgent to deliver the Taurus,” the chairwoman of the Bundestag Defense Committee, FDP’s Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, told *Süddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper. She said the Taurus cruise missiles are “another significant support in the fight against the ongoing brutal Russian attacks on Ukrainian civilians.” The Chancellor’s Office was therefore “called upon not to hesitate again” as it had with other announced military support to Ukraine, she added. “Whoever wants Ukraine to win this war must do everything feasible that international law allows and must not slacken in support.” She omitted mention of the fact that the German Defense Minister had already called for cluster bombs for Ukraine—a clear violation of international law—signed also by Germany.

German Chancellor Campaigns for Ukraine's Phony 'Peace Proposal'

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—In his annual “summer interview” with the second national public television program ZDF yesterday evening, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called for a “greater diplomatic effort” to end the NATO war against Russia based out of Ukraine. But how?

“It makes sense for us to continue these talks, because they increase the pressure on Russia to realize that it has taken the wrong path and that it must withdraw its troops and make peace possible,” Scholz stated, repeating Ukraine [President Zelenskyy's “peace proposal”](#) which is not intended to succeed. He noted that, apart from the Aug. 5-6 Jeddah event hosted by Saudi Arabia, a similar diplomatic event was hosted by Denmark on June 24, and he said that these talks and the summit hosted by Saudi Arabia were both “very special” events. “They are very important and they are really only the beginning,” Scholz stated.

Ukrainian Oppositionist Arestovych Explains How Kiev's 'Dehumanization' of Russians Backfired

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—A general Ukrainian effort to “dehumanize” Russians has become the main “mistake” the country has made in the ongoing conflict, [Oleksiy Arestovych](#), a former advisor to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an interview yesterday with journalist Yulia Latynina. “The main thing we did was to allow ourselves to dehumanize the Russians. This is our main mistake. At first we held on and then we delved into all that with pleasure. The collective Ukrainians, I mean. We allowed that to pour into the internet,” Arestovych stated, adding that such behavior gave average mobilized Russians—not professional soldiers—“an excellent motivation to fight.” Arestovych's remarks are another indicator that Ukraine's heavily advertised offensive against the Russia forces has failed. Apart from that, his remarks also contrast diametrically with British military intelligence inventions frequently in mainstream media in Europe, proclaiming that the Russian army was falling apart in a collapse of combat morale.

What Is the History of ECOWAS?

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has entered the news following the change of government in Niger, as a potential organizer of a military intervention into that nation, to reinstate the deposed president.

ECOWAS moved quickly after the coup, imposing sanctions that included a shutdown of electricity imports to Niger from its neighbor Nigeria. It gave the military government a deadline to leave power and restore President Mohamed Bazoum, a deadline which has come and gone. But the threat of ECOWAS-organized military intervention is not an idle one: “Since 1990, ECOWAS has launched military interventions in seven West African countries, the most recent being in The Gambia in 2017,” writes Alan Macleod in his MintPress News article, “[Beyond Niger: How ECOWAS Became a Tool for Western Imperialism in Africa.](#)”

And the United States is pushing hard for ECOWAS involvement: “The United States welcomes and commends the strong leadership of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to defend constitutional order in Niger actions that respect the will of the Nigerien people and align with enshrined ECOWAS and African Union principles of ‘zero tolerance for unconstitutional change,’ ” said the U.S. State Department.

France, the former colonizer of Niger, denounced the coup as “completely illegitimate” and supported “the efforts of ECOWAS to defeat this putsch attempt.”

Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland suggested that the U.S. itself might intervene militarily: “It is not our desire to go there, but they [the new Nigerien government] may push us to that point.” The contrast between U.S. support for military intervention in the case of the coup in Niger, and support (not least by Nuland herself) for the 2014 coup in Ukraine, speaks to the importance attached to “constitutional order.”

When Burkina Faso had a coup in 2022, ECOWAS did not even impose sanctions.

But Niger has allowed the stationing of French troops (including those kicked out of such neighboring countries as Burkina Faso and Mali) as well as some 1,100 U.S. troops located in half a dozen bases across the country. Niger is also the source of approximately one-third of the uranium France uses to supply most of its electricity.

Burkina Faso and Mali declared that “any military intervention against Niger would mean a declaration of war against Burkina Faso and Mali,” and Algeria has warned that it would not tolerate military intervention. Burkina Faso and Mali are moving towards forming a federation. “The process is underway” reported Ibrahim Traoré, the leader of Burkina Faso.

The hypocritical remarks by the U.S., U.K., and France about democracy, constitutional order, and rules—norms they violate with impunity—serve to underscore the need for, and progress towards, a new international security and development architecture.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

U.S. Court Hears Arguments on Injunction vs Government Pressure on Social Media Companies To Censor

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction in the case of *Missouri v. Biden* on July 4, instructing U.S. government agencies to stop telling social media companies to censor, block, demote, or promote content. That injunction was paused on July 14 by the Fifth Circuit, three of whose judges heard arguments on Aug. 10 on the issue of the injunction. The arguments offered before the court reveal aspects of the censorship in which government officials are eager to engage.

Department of Justice lawyer Daniel Tenny told the three-judge panel how he defined “coercive”: “Coercive is where a reasonable person would construe it to be backed by a threat of government action against a party if it didn’t comply.” But that’s exactly what happened! As just one example, former U.K. Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, who has now taken up his duties to the British Crown through his position at Meta, told his bosses, Mark Zuckerberg and Sherry Sandberg: “We are facing continued pressure

from external stakeholders, including the White House and the press, to remove more Covid-19 vaccine discouraging content.” Apparently there was a “humorous meme” that the White House particularly disapproved of, and “they called on us to delete the meme,” said Clegg.

Joy Pullman at *The Federalist* reports on an email exchange between Rob Flaherty, a White House digital director, and Facebook/Meta. Furious about an algorithmic change that didn’t go the White House’s way, Flaherty expressed his blunt sentiments: “Are you guys fucking serious? I want an answer on what happened here and I want it today.” Reads more like a boss telling a subordinate what to do than a government agent offering advice to a private firm.

The lead attorney for the plaintiffs, former Louisiana Solicitor General John Sauer, pointed to the need for elected officials to learn the views of their constituents, in order better to represent them. “Interference with our ability to hear our constituents’ voices on social media” and “interference with our ability to have a fair and unbiased process for our people to organize and petition the government for [redress of] grievances” are hindered when government causes private companies to censor views.

Morgan Stanley Worries Anti-Obesity Drugs Hurt Fast-Food ‘Restaurants’

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Aug. 11, Morgan Stanley published a report on the impact of anti-obesity drugs on producers of junk food. The analysts, who have estimated the anti-obesity drug market at \$54 billion for the year 2030, write about how declining appetites will reduce demand for food, with junk food taking the biggest hit.

Drugs like Wegovy and Ozempic—which cost around \$1,000 a month—induce a significant reduction of daily caloric intake: some 20-30%. Based on their estimates of the number of Americans who might take such drugs, Morgan Stanley says that overall calorie consumption will be down 1.7%. But not all foods are created equal! While 46% of people using the drugs reported eating more fruits and vegetables, over 60% of patients reported consuming fewer confections, sugary drinks, baked goods, and

salty snacks. Among those using the medications, 77% reported going less often to fast food joints.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

U.S. Suicide Rates Climbing to Alarming Levels, Year on Year

Aug. 14, 2023 (EIRNS)—Statistics released last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), indicate an alarming rise in suicide rates in the United States. Figures available for 2022 show a 2.6% increase in suicides, or 49,449 deaths—the highest number ever recorded, ABC News reported. This follows a 5% increase in suicide rates in 2021, but, according to the CDC, suicide rates have been increasing every year since 2006, with the exception of 2019 and 2020.

Several media reports on these results cite the prevalence of depression, how isolation during the Covid pandemic contributed to mental health problems generally, and, of course, the widespread availability of firearms, which is cited as one of the major causes. Almost no one identifies the real reasons: general societal breakdown—both economic and cultural, homelessness, lack of productive employment or educational opportunity, and the destructive drug epidemic. According to Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, “mental health has become the defining public health and societal challenge of our time.” The numbers, he said, are a “sobering reminder of how urgent it is that we further expand access to mental health care addressing the root causes of mental health struggles.”

The rise in suicides in people ages 65 and above was dramatic—8.1% in 2022. But all age groups are affected, the latest report shows. In March, the CDC reported that one out of every three teenage girls said they had contemplated suicide at some point. More than half, 57%, also said they feel “persistently sad or hopeless.” In June, CDC figures showed that almost one in five U.S. adults said they had been diagnosed as suffering from depression “at some point in their lives.”