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EDITORIAL

Trump Restoring Dirigist Economic System, Defends Ties with Russia and China

April 3 (EIRNS)—President Trump has moved boldly to place the U.S. economy under emergency control, using dirigist methods which were once

well known as the “American System” of political economy, as discovered and implemented by Alexander Hamilton and his followers, especially Mathew and Henry Carey and their German associate Friedrich List. Trump has galvanized both business and military leaders and institutions to impose a demand economy on American industries and infrastructure, to meet the emergency needs of a population facing an existential crisis unlike any in modern history. He is doing so in open cooperation with Russia and China, despite the howls of resistance from the neo-cons and neo-libs who run the political parties in the U.S., and the corrupt press. Trump has held long, productive conversations with Presidents Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping over the past week, and due to his effort, the first two cargo planes bringing medical supplies in to help save American lives came from Russia and China.

You would hardly know this from following the American corporate news outlets. Instead, one reads in Bloomberg that the “intelligence community” issued a secret report to the President showing that China is lying about the coronavirus deaths in China, while the European Union foreign policy office ranted that Putin is spreading disinformation about the virus “to subvert the West and create a new world order.” At the same time, the diehards in the military-industrial complex are trying to drag the President into new regime-change wars in Iran and Venezuela, aiming to provoke a confrontation with China and Russia.

Trump responded unequivocally to the “intelligence community” hoax. Asked if Russia had gained a “propaganda victory” by sending the medical supplies, Trump answered, “I’m not concerned about Russian propaganda. It may save a lot of lives.” And on China’s supposed lies about the number of COVID-19 victims, he said: “I’m not an accountant from China.... We really don’t know. How do we know whether they under-reported? He said clearly that “we have not received” any such intelligence reports, “but we had a great call the other night [with Xi Jinping]. We are working together on a lot of different things, including trade.”

Yet, both Republican and Democrat leaders are demanding an economic and even military confrontation with China! In a letter to Secretary Mike Pompeo (whose anti-China diatribes should soon see him out of a job), House Republicans blamed the COVID-19 crisis on China, demanding “repercussions” for their supposedly undermining the world and causing “indescribable suffering.” Republican Senator Rick Scott even called for a Congressional investigation of the head of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedras, claiming that the WHO’s praise for China’s firm response (the Wuhan method of quarantine) shows that Tedras is a puppet of the Chinese Communist Party!

The irony is that the dirigist measures being revived by President Trump are precisely those used by the Chinese government to create the miracle of the past 40 years, becoming the world’s leading nation in high-tech infrastructure, and now taking that technology to the rest of the world through the Belt and Road Initiative. This is no surprise. It is not “socialism” versus “capitalism,” but rather the American System versus the British System. The Chinese have been followers of Friedrich List and Henry Carey since the time of Sun Yat-sen. List’s documentation of the British use of “free trade” dogma to keep its colonies backward, is known to every Chinese economist, as are the Hamiltonian policies of protectionism, national banking, and a focus on infrastructure as the key to industrial and scientific progress. Perhaps some of our Harvard ideologues could learn something about the American System from Xi Jinping.

The danger remains that Wall Street is unleashing a multi-trillion dollar bailout of the nearly two quadrillion dollar bubble of derivatives—gambling debts gone bad. The “CARES” bill signed by the President, allocating \$2.2 trillion to support citizens and businesses being battered by the shutdown of much of the economy, is both justified and necessary, as is the President’s call for a \$2 trillion infrastructure program. But hidden in the process is the more than \$4 trillion going to the Federal Reserve to bail out the financial bubble—a hyperinflationary move that will undermine any progress in the real economy, and will rapidly destroy the dollar.

The only path forward is that of the full Four Laws presented by Lyndon LaRouche after the 2008 crash. To galvanize the patriots of this nation, and the citizens of the world, to achieve that policy, organize the greatest possible number of people to participate in the on-line Schiller Institute Conference on April 25-26.

- Watch or listen to the Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger: <https://larouchepac.com/media-content-types/morning-briefing-harley-schlanger>. Every weekday, morning Harley briefs you on what you need to know to start your day. Use the weekend to catch up on ones you missed. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel, and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley's briefings are posted.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Pelosi and Schiff At It Again, Demand New Investigations of President, Now Around COVID-19 Response

April 3 (EIRNS)—In the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic, in which the Trump Administration is calling on all Americans to unite since “we’re in this together,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and her sidekick Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) have teamed up again to launch yet another investigation of the President. Just a couple of months out of the impeachment fraud they ran, the two now claim that Trump’s handling of the coronavirus response must be investigated.

Yesterday Nancy Pelosi announced the creation of the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis, a “bipartisan” committee that will have authority to investigate any aspect of the virus emergency and the Trump Administration’s handling of it, the *Washington Examiner* reported.

In a “Dear Colleague” letter, Pelosi said she wants the new committee to be similar to the 1941 Truman Committee which investigated fraud, abuse, and waste in defense spending. It will be headed by Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.). The committee will oversee how the \$2 trillion stimulus package is spent, and will have subpoena power.

For his part, “Shifty” Schiff is said to be drafting legislation to create a 9/11-style independent commission to investigate what he claims are “mistakes” in the Administration’s response to the virus. Handling of virus testing and distribution of personal protective equipment for health-care workers are two areas he demands be scrutinized. Speaking on MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell show, he charged that Trump’s delay in responding to the virus has had “catastrophic consequences.” As occurred after Pearl Harbor or 9/11, he intoned, the new commission will have to “look at what went wrong and learn from our mistakes.” He told the *Washington Post* that while the work of the commission will have to wait until after the crisis, so as not to disrupt the work of agencies leading the response, “that should not prevent us from beginning to identify where we got it wrong and how we can be prepared for the next pandemic.

Trump blasted this lunacy in Thursday’s press briefing: “I want to remind everyone here in our nation’s capital, especially in Congress, that this is not the time for politics, endless partisan investigations. Here we go again. [They] have already done extraordinary damage to our country in recent years. You see what happens. It’s witch-hunt after witch-hunt after witch-hunt. And in the end, the people doing the witch-hunt have been losing, and they’ve been losing by a lot. And it’s not any time for witch-hunts. It’s time to get this enemy defeated. Conducting these partisan investigations in the middle of a pandemic is a really a big waste of vital resources, time, attention. And we want to fight for American lives, not waste time and build up my poll numbers, because that’s all they’re doing because everyone knows it’s ridiculous.

Chinese Foreign Ministry on U.S. Smears: ‘It’s Immoral and Inhumane To Politicize Public Health’

April 2 (EIRNS)—In the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s regular daily briefing today, spokeswoman Hua Chunying responded sharply, but methodically, to the lies coming out of the U.S. Congress and elsewhere that China has under-reported the scope of the coronavirus in that country.

Answering a question from Bloomberg, which put out the story on the secret “intelligence community” report on China’s alleged under-reporting, Hua slammed those “several politicians who are habitual liars.” Responding to what she called “endless, immoral slanders,” Hua detailed a methodical time-line of how China responded from the onset of the coronavirus outbreak, going back to Dec. 27, 2019.

Citing articles by such scientific publications as *The Lancet* or *Science* that lauded China’s response, she stated that China has always been transparent. In contrast, she pointed to cases in the U.S. in which scientists had been prevented from publicly reporting testing results. She noted that as recently as March 2, Dr. McCarthy from the New York-Presbyterian Hospital told CNBC that his hospital had to “plead” with health authorities to test suspected cases of coronavirus. Can the slanderers explain this, Hua asked?

“Out of humanitarian spirit,” she said, China would like to help the American people and provide support “as our ability permits. However the comments by these few U.S. politicians are just shameless and morally repulsive.... Slanders, smears, and blame games cannot make up for lost time. More lies will only waste more time and lead to more lives lost. A word of advice to these politicians: At this moment, lives should come before politics. It is immoral and inhumane to politicize public health.... I hope they will lose no more time and focus instead on fighting the pandemic and saving American lives.”

GOP Sen. Scott Demands Congress Investigate WHO, Lies That It Abetted China’s Coverup of COVID-19 Severity

April 3 (EIRNS)—In line with other Republicans promoting geopolitical confrontation with China, Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), a former venture capitalist, is demanding that Congress investigate the World Health Organization (WHO), which he accuses of helping China to cover up the severity of the initial coronavirus outbreak, Fox News reported.

Scott retailed the slanders that China lied about its number of coronavirus cases, and that it failed to act once it had discovered the

severity of the situation. This “handicapped the rest of the world,” he railed. But, he added, it was also the WHO that failed, because it “promoted China’s misinformation and helped Communist China cover up a global pandemic.”

The WHO never bothered to investigate any further, he insisted, thus “their inaction cost lives.” The U.S. Congress, he demanded, must carry out a full investigation of this once it returns to Washington, because the WHO “uncritically shared propaganda from the Chinese government.” Add to this the voice of another devotee of British geopolitics, Arizona Sen. Martha McSally who is calling on WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to step down, for allegedly abetting China’s “misinformation.”

In an April 2 press conference in Geneva, Dr. Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO’s Health Emergencies Program, responded to these ravings: “I think we need to be very careful also not to be profiling certain parts of the world as being uncooperative or non-transparent, and we need to look at transparency across the board. We need to be balanced in that, and we need to recognize that systems under pressure find it hard to share everything on a minute-to-minute basis. Frankly, at times I think we get over-focused on this issue.”

Dr. Ryan pointed to the Italian case, where there was a lack of precise information because its medical system was totally overwhelmed by the enormous number of coronavirus patients. “Are we saying they’re lacking in transparency and not sending WHO all the data every day? No.”

Trump Refutes Anti-Russia, Anti-China Lies

April 3 (EIRNS)—President Trump again rejected questions from the media trying to target Russia and China. He called Russia’s donation of a large aircraft full of high quality medical equipment a “very nice gesture.” To a question implying this was a propaganda victory for Russia, Trump replied, “I’m not concerned about Russian propaganda. It may save a lot of lives.”

In the Wednesday press briefing, a reporter asked about the Bloomberg article claiming that a U.S. intelligence community report accuses China of grossly under-reporting the number of COVID deaths in China. Showing his normal disdain for U.S. intelligence reports (if such a report even exists), Trump responded: “I’m not an accountant for China,” adding that “we have not received” any such intelligence reports. “We really don’t know. How do we know whether they under-reported or reported, however they report? But we had a great call the other night. We are working together on a lot of different things, including trade. They’re buying a lot, they’re spending a lot of money. They’re giving it to our farmers.”

Peter Navarro Troubleshooting for the COVID-19 Mobilization

April 3 (EIRNS)—Peter Navarro, President Trump’s trade director, has been put to work troubleshooting for the COVID task force. He spoke at the Thursday press briefing (without mentioning China once) on the use of the Defense Production Act: “The DPA is one of the most powerful weapons which can (1) mobilize industries and re-purpose and expand production; (2) reallocate resources (these supply chains can go seven levels deep); and (3) what I call, ‘Bust ’em.’ ” This last referred to hoarding, which a member of the press had brought up.

He pointed to the 3M case. “We’re going to resolve with 3M tomorrow, by the end of the business day.” Trump applied the DPA on 3M, to prioritize N95 respirator masks for FEMA, and tweeted Thursday morning: “We hit 3M hard today after seeing what they were doing with their Masks. ‘P Act’ all the way. Big surprise to many in government as to what they were doing.”

On going after hoarders, Navarro cited Attorney General William Barr’s warning to hoarders. “Well, three days ago they raided a New Jersey warehouse and seized the medical supplies, and then turned it around to hospitals with a day or two. That’s the way to do it. Tomorrow were going to be addressing this. There is a black market forming, with brokers coming in, with the result that domestic sources of medical supplies are being exported! The President said this is not going to happen, and we’re

coordinating with Customs, USPS, and UPS. That's gotta stop. To those involved, you pick up the phone and call FEMA and sell it at a fair price.”

Navarro then told a story: “Two days ago, I got an SOS from the New York [City] Police Department. They were sending officers into apartments where COVID was known or expected, and they had no protective gear, not even supplies of hand sanitizer. I solved it with two calls. One call, which resulted in another call, netted 2,000 outfits, delivered within 16 hours. Another call resulted in 6,000 gallons of hand sanitizer and a guarantee from the company to continue to provide whatever the NYPD needed.”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

What Was Behind the Firing of Aircraft Carrier Commander?

April 3 (EIRNS)—Was Capt. Brett Crozier, the commanding officer of the *U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt*, fired because his actions were questioning the underlying axiomatic basis for the geopolitical confrontations against China, Russia, and other countries mandated by the national security documents upon which Pentagon strategy is based? In a statement read out to reporters yesterday afternoon at the Pentagon, Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly practically trashed Crozier, accusing him of bad judgment, causing panic unnecessarily, and going outside the chain of command by careless dissemination of his letter calling for evacuation of the COVID-19-infected ship, which allowed it to be leaked to the news media (Modly did not accuse Crozier of leaking it himself).

Most indicative of the underlying issues, however, was Modly's response to Crozier's assertion in his letter that the U.S. is not at war, and therefore the ship should not be deployed with a known virus infecting the crew and risking lives. “While we may not be at war in a traditional sense, neither are we truly at peace. Authoritarian regimes are on the rise. Many nations are reaching, in many ways, to reduce our capacity to accomplish our national goals. This is actively happening every day,” Modly said. “A more agile and resilient mentality is necessary, up and down the chain of

command.” An agility which, it seems in Modly’s view, Crozier did not demonstrate.

Modly said that no one from the White House had influenced his decision to relieve Crozier, reported *military.com*. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper was aware of his decision, Modly said, adding that he was told he had the secretary’s support. Adm. Michael Gilday, the Chief of Naval Operations, said he supports Modly’s decision.

The War Zone’s Joseph Trevithick reports, among other things, that Crozier’s letter was a source of embarrassment for Modly, particularly in the context of the reheated tensions between the U.S. and Iran. Trevithick writes that there had been a clear sense that Modly, in particular, had been extremely embarrassed by the letter and upset on various levels at its assertions. “Several sources say that the decision was not made in Hawaii [where U.S. Pacific Fleet is headquartered]. This is all D.C.,” *U.S. Naval Institute News* reporter Sam LaGrone wrote on Twitter.

A major factor in Crozier’s decision about his ship, however, may have been the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the code of law that covers the military. Crozier never referred to the UCMJ in his letter, but nonetheless, Articles 110 and 114 address the willful and wrongful hazarding of a vessel or aircraft of the armed forces and the reckless endangerment of the lives of others, making them court-martial offenses. If Crozier had continued to operate the ship as directed by his chain of command, the coronavirus would inevitably endanger the crew, and would come to affect the ability of his crew to man the nuclear reactors, safely navigate the ship, and conduct flight operations. Crozier was clearly not willing to put his crew and his ship at risk, with a known viral agent aboard, when, as he said in his letter, “we are not at war.”

Trans-Atlantic Countries Reject Russia’s UN General Assembly Proposal To End UN Sanctions

April 3 (EIRNS)—Several major Western countries refused to vote in favor of Russia’s proposals on easing unilateral sanctions in the United National General Assembly. They include Ukraine, Georgia, the United Kingdom,

the European Union, and the United States. The UNGA did pass an alternative and broader draft declaration on solidarity in countering COVID-19 pandemic, which ignored UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' urge to lift sanctions. However, the document proposed by Russia was not adopted.

“Our text envisaged: recognizing the leading role of the WHO in combating the pandemic; consent of states to cooperate, i.e. in order to develop methods that should stop the spread and ensure treatment of the COVID-19 disease; providing assistance to the most vulnerable states, especially developing countries; rejection of trade wars and unilateral sanctions adopted without the mandate of the UN Security Council, in order to ensure early access to food and medication; countering financial speculations with essential supplies,” said the April 2 statement from the Russian Mission to the UN.

“Our document failed to be adopted by consensus. Ukraine, Georgia, U.K., U.S., and EU prevented it,” the diplomatic mission stated.

“We regret that a small group of states championing sanctions-based policy appeared unready to respond to the call of the UN Secretary-General and refused to cast aside politicized approaches and interests. As a result, it will be much more difficult to give a global and solidary response to the threat of the new pandemic. A great number of people, in the developing countries in the first place, might be affected,” the document said.

“We would be very interested to hear and see in writing reasoning and arguments for blocking our draft Declaration by the EU, U.S. and U.K. We would be willing and happy to spare and exempt Ukraine and Georgia from undertaking this exercise, as their arguments, as ever contemptuous and politicized, would not add any value to the understanding by most of the member-states.”

Russia's declaration was co-sponsored by 28 UN member-states, while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged all countries to ease sanctions against a number of countries, as well as stop hostilities.

ECONOMY

Africa's Hospital Beds and Electricity Generation Vastly Inadequate To Fight COVID-19; Health Silk Road Is Needed To Transform Continent

April 2 (EIRNS)—The number of hospital beds per 1,000 people in the United States is half of the 1946 Hill-Burton standard of 4.5 beds per 1,000 people, and is greatly insufficient in many nations of the world, but the ratio of hospital beds per 1,000 people in Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa, is so low as almost to defy the imagination. Africa's ability to defend against the SARS-COV-2 virus, by bringing people to hospitals and placing them in hospital beds for intensive treatment, is practically non-existent.

This combines with a dearth of clean water supply and electricity generation, on a per-capita basis. Think of a modern hospital. What would it be without electricity to allow one to turn on lights; to run refrigerators that refrigerate blood samples and serum; or to power EKG, CT (computed tomography), and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machines, if such machines are available at all?

Below is a table that gives a battlefield report on the condition of a sample of African countries.

Country	Hospital beds per 1,000 persons	Electricity: Annual kilowatt-hours per person
Zambia	2.0	709
Egypt	1.6	2,404
Kenya	1.4	162
Malawi	1.3	102
Ghana	0.9	341
Somalia	0.9	27
Sudan	0.8	269
Tanzania	0.7	1,671
Uganda	0.5	70
Nigeria	0.5	128
Sierra Leone	0.4	33

Country	Hospital beds per 1,000 persons	Electricity: Annual kilowatt-hours per person
Chad	0.4	16
Ivory Coast	0.4	244
Burkina Faso	0.4	53
Guinea	0.3	74
Senegal	0.3	209
Niger	0.3	64
Madagascar	0.2	53
Mali	0.1	80

Look at Nigeria, a country with 200 million people, which is 89% below the Hill-Burton standard of 4.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people; or Mali, which has a paucity of beds, and is 98% below Hill-Burton standards.

The United States' annual electricity consumption is 12,071 kilowatt-hours per person; that of Russia is 7,481, and that of Germany is 6,602. Chad's annual electricity consumption, if the figures are correct, is 16 kilowatt-hours per person; that of Somalia is 27; and that of Sierra Leone is 33.

Africa, with 54 countries and 1.33 billion people, is home to many of the world's deadly diseases. In the case of HIV, 37.9 million people in the world are infected; Africa has 27.5 million, nearly three-fourths of the world's total. In the case of malaria, according to the WHO, in 2018 there were an estimated 228 million cases worldwide, and 405,000 deaths. Africa was home to 93% of all malaria cases, and 94% of the deaths, many of them children under age 5. A locust plague is ravaging many countries in the Horn of Africa. And now comes COVID-19.

On March 29, Helga Zepp-LaRouche called for an Apollo Mission to Save Mankind: Building the Health Silk Road. For Africa, by rough first approximation, it will require at least 15,000 new modern hospitals, containing 4 million new hospital beds. It will require ventilators, PPEs, masks, in huge quantities. It will require vast amounts of electricity and

clean water, and, of course, food. *EIR* has written excellent studies on this, particularly on infrastructure.

This will require that China, which is already going forward constructing a precious Belt and Road network in Africa, along with the U.S., Russia, India, Germany, Japan, use existing factories, or reconvert factories on a vast scale to produce what is needed on a 24/7 basis. The credit for this should be provided by a New Bretton Woods Hamiltonian credit facility, in the amount, in quite rough approximation, of \$125 trillion.

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

China, Japan International Banks To Loan \$11 billion COVID-19 Aid to Poor Nations

April 3 (EIRNS)—The China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Japan-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) are both committing multi-billion funds to aid the poor nations facing a catastrophe, as COVID-19 sweeps into the developing sector. The London *Financial Times* reports today that AIIB president Jin Lique announced plans to loan at least \$5 billion to member nations facing the virus. Jin told the *Financial Times* that he expects this amount to serve its members' needs for 18 months when combined with existing lending programs. "But if the demand is much bigger, it is possible for us to increase the amount, with the approval of our board," Jin said, adding that "The crisis has laid bare the vulnerability of so many countries. We need to focus on building up the public health infrastructure."

In March, the ADB announced a \$6.5 billion package to the same purpose, and is planning more. "We quickly compiled the resources available to help out member countries, and announced \$6.5 billion," Yasuyuki Sawada, the ADB's chief economist, told the *Financial Times*. "But now, in the last two weeks, we are working very hard to mobilize additional resources. We can provide more support.... The possibility of severe financial turmoil and financial crises cannot be discounted," he wrote in a foreword of the ADB's development outlook for 2020. "Sharp

and protracted declines in commodity prices and tourist arrivals will challenge dependent economies across the region.”

The *Financial Times* also reports that twenty of the AIIB’s 78 members have requested support to fight the virus, with India expected to be among the hardest-hit by the pandemic, while they will extend \$355 million to China, in what would be the institution’s first loan in the health-care sector.