

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

‘What Art Thou, Freedom?’

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The 1 billion people of NATO nations are a relatively small portion of the entire human population, yet those NATO nations and closer partners account for the majority of military spending on this planet. Although Anglo-American-directed NATO lies that it is a “defensive alliance,” its involvement in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Libya tell a different story.

Its global ambitions are manifest in the July 11 [Vilnius Summit Communiqué](#). China challenges “our interests, security, and values,” the document reads. The alliance expresses outrage about the “deepening strategic partnership between the People’s Republic of China and Russia and their mutually reinforcing attempts to undercut the rules-based international order.”

Whose rules? When did NATO supplant international law? Why should 31 nations be allowed to write the “values” and “rules” of the “international order”?

“I am God, and king, and law!” says Percy Bysshe Shelley’s *Anarchy*.

“I am God, and rules, and law!” says NATO.

The crimes of the current Anglo-American hegemony are manifold. Many commentators, emotionally unprepared to shake that system and put in place another, limit themselves to cataloging its evils. “[Y]e can tell / That which slavery is, too well,” Shelley remarks in his *Mask of Anarchy*. One of his examples: “ ’Tis to work and have such pay / As just keeps life from day to day / In your limbs, as in a cell / For the tyrants’ use to dwell.”

But what is the new world that we must create? Shelley:
 “What art thou Freedom? O! could slaves
 Answer from their living graves

This demand—tyrants would flee
Like a dream’s dim imagery.”

This question we must answer! What sort of peace must be created?

Will Afghanistan, deprived of central bank reserves, stripped of food aid, be plunged into poverty and misery? What will create the conditions for development? Consider the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan rail project in light of the Trans-Afghan Railroad and the International North-South Transport Corridor. These projects can transform land-locked regions and countries into land-linked areas of expanded potential.

Will the United States continue to thumb its nose at the potential to cooperate with China in space? Or will shared endeavors speed humanity’s access to the nearby Solar System and create a shared defense against asteroids and comets?

Will humanity be dragged into the abyss of nuclear war by the foundering Anglo-American “rules-based order” and its insistence on maintaining hegemony?

Or, can a new paradigm, coming into sharper existence nearly every week among the Global South, find purchase and expansion among NATO countries that throw off the yoke of servitude to an oligarchical system?

The answer lies in our hands.

By initiating and building for the upcoming Humanity for Peace events of August 6, we take a promising step towards a better path. In providing guidance and dialogue, along the lines of Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s [Ten Principles for a New International Security and Development Architecture](#), we determine where it leads.

For Shelley, the future is up to us. Our oppression and liberation are both of our own making:

“And these words shall then become
Like Oppression’s thundered doom
Ringing through each heart and brain,
Heard again—again—again —

“Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number—
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you—
Ye are many—they are few.”

• Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday July 26, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Russian Missiles Hit Ukrainian Port on Danube Next to Romania

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Moscow has sent a clear message that Russia won't tolerate any exportation of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea except under conditions that it dictates. The message was sent to the Ukrainian port of Reni via Geran kamikaze drones overnight July 23-24, which reportedly caused extensive damage to grain silos and other port facilities. The Reni port is on the Danube, literally across the river from NATO member Romania. The city of Reni also lies close to the border of Moldova. As a result of the strike, ships heading towards Reni have now backed up on the ship channel and out into the Black Sea. Another effect of the Russian strike is the sudden drop in availability of insurance for ships going to the Black Sea. Insurance sources told Reuters there were few requests to cover new charters for vessels looking to pick up cargoes from Ukraine's Danube ports.

NATO's criticism of the Reni strike, however, seems to be limited. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the attack with Romanian Foreign Minister Luminita Odobescu. “We will defend every inch of NATO territory,” State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told

reporters after the call, yesterday. “The secretary made that clear in his call with the Romanian Foreign Minister today.”

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis warned that security in the Black Sea was at risk. “I strongly condemn the recent Russian attacks against the Ukrainian civilian infrastructure on Danube, very close to Romania,” he tweeted. “This recent escalation poses serious risks to the security in the Black Sea. It also affects further Ukrainian grain transit, thus global food security.”

Russia has so far not commented on the strike.

U.S. Promises Another \$400 Million in Weapons to Ukraine

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Biden Administration announced today its 43rd drawdown of U.S. military stocks to provide more weapons to the Kiev regime. Today’s package, worth \$400 million, includes air defense missiles, HIMARS rocket munitions, artillery and mortar rounds, anti-tank weapons, 32 Stryker armored personnel carriers, Hornet mini-drones, aircraft rockets, demolitions munitions, and over 28 million rounds of small arms ammunition. According to a fact sheet accompanying the Pentagon release, the Biden Administration has now committed \$43.7 billion worth of weapons and military equipment to the Kiev regime.

IAEA Finds Anti-Personnel Mines at Zaporozhye NPP

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) issued a statement yesterday reporting that its experts at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant had found anti-personnel mines around the perimeter of the plant, outside its working area.

During a walkdown on July 23, the IAEA team saw some mines located in a buffer zone between the site’s internal and external perimeter barriers, the statement reported. The experts reported that they were situated in a restricted area that operating plant personnel cannot access and were facing away from the site. The team did not observe any within the inner site perimeter during the walkdown.

“As I have reported earlier, the IAEA has been aware of the previous placement of mines outside the site perimeter and also at particular places inside. Our team has raised this specific finding with the plant and they have been told that it is a military decision, and in an area controlled by military,” Director General Rafael Grossi said. “But having such explosives on the site is inconsistent with the IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance and creates additional psychological pressure on plant staff—even if the IAEA’s initial assessment based on its own observations and the plant’s clarifications is that any detonation of these mines should not affect the site’s nuclear safety and security systems. The team will continue its interactions with the plant,” he added.

It appears, judging from its statements, that the IAEA has accepted the Russian explanation that the mines have been placed for security reasons, even if they disagree with it.

Aside from the mines, IAEA inspectors have not observed any heavy military equipment at the plant grounds, but are still seeking access to the rooftops of reactor units 3 and 4. The statement also reported that the inspectors have not observed any mines or other explosives in internal areas that they have inspected.

Sovereign Countries Should ‘Thwart’ U.S. Attempt To Run the World, Says Russian Security Chief

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The U.S. is trying to impose its will on the entirety of the world, and sovereign countries have an interest in shutting that down, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev said yesterday. He commented that the world is steadily moving toward a more equitable multipolar system. “Unfortunately, this objective trend is categorically rejected by the Western minority, which does not hesitate to use any means—from unilateral sanctions to waging hybrid wars—in an attempt to preserve its hegemonic global position,” Patrushev said at a meeting of top security officials from the BRICS countries in South Africa, reported TASS. In particular, he pointed out that the “global minority” is trying to replace the UN-centric system and world order, “that is, the

system [supported by the] majority [of nations],” with some sort of “rules-based order.”

“We are convinced that it is in the interests of all sovereign states to thwart the Americans’ attempts to dictate [to other nations] and impose their approaches on others,” Patrushev stressed. He added that, in the contemporary political and economic architecture of the world, “there is a growing demand for increased representation of countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East that pursue an independent foreign policy and are ready to defend national interests and their sovereignty in the institutions of global governance.”

Russian War Production Surging

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Trade and Industry Minister Denis Manturov reported yesterday that Moscow’s military production is surging, despite shortages of skilled labor. “Since the beginning of this year, for many types of weapons and special equipment, much more has already been produced than for the whole of last year,” he told a conference of regional governors in Nizhny Novgorod, reported TASS. “Speaking about weapons, we are now reaching a level at which deliveries in just one month exceed the total order of last year.”

Defense enterprises are operating at unprecedented levels, Manturov said. The expanded capabilities have resulted in a labor shortage, however. “In total, taking into account the deployed capacities, we need more than 16,000 specialists only for organizations that ensure the supply of the most popular types of weapons and special equipment,” ranging from line workers to technical specialists and engineers, Manturov, who is also a deputy prime minister, explained, while asking the governors to address the personnel shortage. “We need an integrated approach here,” he said, urging them to involve employment and human resource specialists, and to offer incentives to university graduates to work in the defense industry.

Black Sea Grain Initiative Discussed at UN Food Conference in Rome

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Plenty of verbiage has been spent on restoring the Black Sea Grain Initiative but little action. In a keynote address yesterday at the opening session of the July 24-26 UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in Rome, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on Russia to return to the deal. Guterres said he was committed to unimpeded access to global markets for food products and fertilizers from both Ukraine and Russia, and urged the global community to stand behind that effort, reported Anadolu. He underlined that Russia and Ukraine are “both essential to global food security.” The summit convened yesterday, attended by 2,000 participants, including 22 heads of state or government and more than 100 ministerial delegations, who will “review progress on commitments to action and identify successes, enduring bottlenecks, and priorities to close the implementation gap for food systems transformation.”

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speaking on national TV rather than in Rome, said that Türkiye is ready to continue its efforts to settle the Ukrainian crisis and that proposals had been submitted to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He reiterated that on July 7, he had met with Zelenskyy in Istanbul. “We discussed issues on our agenda. In particular, we exchanged our proposals with regard to the war which has been underway for over 500 days and again stated our readiness to do everything that depends on us on this track,” Erdogan declared.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani told TASS in Rome that Italy thinks it necessary to extend the grain deal. “We think that an agreement must be found, because the issue is not so much the conflict itself between Russia and Ukraine, but African countries that are being left without grain. We support any initiatives, Türkiye’s or any mediating initiative. We are working on a peaceful resolution [of the Ukrainian conflict] together with the UN,” he replied to a question as to whether Italy can resume its mediating role, given its traditionally good relations with Russia.

Also speaking on the sidelines of the Rome summit was Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin, who told reporters that the grain deal

can't be restored without Russia. "My opinion is that it is impossible to do this without Russia," Vershinin said. The problem is that there are no talks underway aimed at restoring it. "Currently, negotiations on the grain deal resumption ... are not being held. We articulated our position clearly. No renewal of the Black Sea Initiative took place after [July] 17. We objected to that. We objected with consideration of the experience in implementation of Istanbul agreements that we accumulated over the year," he declared.

Black Sea Security under Threat

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, yesterday, that the discovery of traces of explosives on a foreign cargo vessel in the Black Sea underscores the threat to the Kerch Strait Bridge that connects Crimea to mainland Russia. Earlier in the day, Sputnik reports, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) said that on July 22 it had detected traces of explosives on a ship that had been coming from Türkiye to the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don. The FSB said it had imposed inspection of all ships going through the Kerch Strait to prevent possible terrorist attacks. "Of course, ensuring the security of the Crimean Bridge requires the most careful measures, verification activities, which are carried out by our relevant body. Indeed, the discovered traces of explosives indicate that there is a danger. It requires being on a high alert constantly," Peskov told reporters.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin warned on the sidelines of the Food Systems Summit that Moscow believes NATO is getting embroiled in dangerous actions as part of the confrontation with Russia in Ukraine. "We are aware that there is a plan to convene a Ukraine-NATO Council meeting" on July 26, he said, referring to the July 23 statement of NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu. "We are closely watching the developments.... We think that NATO is openly taking part in the military confrontation with Russia in Ukraine and is already involved in these actions. The NATO military bloc may be dangerously expanding its involvement in the actions which seriously fuel regional tensions. We view such things as inadmissible."

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

BRICS Nations' Security Advisors Meet in Johannesburg

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The national security advisors of the BRICS nations are meeting in Johannesburg, one month ahead of the Aug. 22-24 summit of BRICS national leaders in that city. In addition to BRICS members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the meeting was attended by representatives from Belarus, Burundi, Cuba, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Commenting on their attendance, a statement from the office of [Minister in the South African Presidency Ms. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni](#) said: “The Friends of BRICS are a combination of countries who have expressed an interest in joining BRICS, those who chair prominent institutions of the Global South, and those invited as per the Chair’s prerogative and henceforth invited as per the consensus reached between the host and fellow BRICS members.”

Russia is represented by Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev. The Chinese envoy is leading diplomat Wang Yi, who also met with South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor on the sidelines.

Pepe Escobar Asserts the Future of the BRICS Lies in Infrastructure and National Currencies

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—A new common payment system for the BRICS countries is in the works for the grouping’s Aug. 22-24 national leaders summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, writes journalist Pepe Escobar yesterday in “[BRICS Problems, BRI Solutions](#),” in The Cradle.

While Escobar acknowledges the more advanced discussions led by Russian economist Sergey Glazyev in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), he anticipates that the main focus for the BRICS will be to work out how to move to R5 trade. The name comes from the fact that all five members have currencies starting with the letter “R”: the real, ruble, rupee, renminbi, and rand. Writes Escobar, “R5 will allow current members to

increase mutual trade by bypassing the U.S. dollar and reducing their dollar reserves.”

He also points to progress along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which will connect Russia with India via land passage from through St. Petersburg, Russia, Azerbaijan (potentially Armenia, too), and Iran, then by sea to India. The route is much shorter than traveling entirely by ship from St. Petersburg to India. Escobar’s estimate is that it will reduce the cost of such a journey by 50% and shave 20 days from transit. Russian Transport Minister Vitaly Saveliev said last month in St. Petersburg that Russia plans to invest \$3 billion into the corridor by 2030. Imagine, in this context, the potential of the Trans-Afghan Railway—as part of linking land-locked Uzbekistan with Pakistan, via Afghanistan.

Valdai Club Holds Africa Conference

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—The international Valdai Discussion Club is holding its first conference on Africa in St. Petersburg today, on the eve of the Russia-Africa Summit, which begins in the same city on July 27. A statement by the Club expressed the hope “that the recommendations and results of the Valdai Club conference will have an applied nature and will fall on the table of leaders on the eve of the summit,” because “most of the guests are involved in the process of foreign policy planning in their countries. The Valdai Club Conference will actually become the final synchronization of watches at the expert level in the run-up to the summit,” a statement by the club’s press service said.

More than 60 people from 15 countries had been invited to participate in the event on the theme “Russia and African Countries: Established Traditions of Interaction and Prospects for Cooperation in a New World,” including guests from Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, and Zambia, as well as from China, India, and Russia.

The second [Russia-Africa Summit and Economic Forum](#) is slated for July 27-28 in St. Petersburg.

Putin Signs Digital Ruble Law

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russia’s President Vladimir Putin signed the digital ruble bill into law on July 24 allowing the country’s central bank to issue its own digital currency. According to [CoinDesk](#), the law will allow the Central Bank to use it for payments along with other methods, according to the new amendments to Russia’s Civil Code. The digital ruble accounts will be managed by the central bank, the law says. The bill had been passed by the Duma on July 11 and the Federation Council on July 19.

The Bank of Russia sees the digital ruble as a tool against sanctions and a way to control government expenditures.

Russian economist [Sergey Glazyev](#), Minister of Integration and Macroeconomics at the Eurasian Economic Commission (of the EAEU), has argued that with a digital ruble it would be possible to track transactions in the blockchain and prevent non-intended use of funds. That would remove what he said is one of the major obstacles cited against issuance of state or state-backed preferential investment credits: their non-intended use, such as diversion into speculative markets. Whether the Central Bank sees it in this way is another question.

Russia’s Lavrov Hosts Meeting with Azerbaijan and Armenia Foreign Ministers To Resolve the Two Nations’ Conflict

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Ministers Sergey Lavrov hosted both trilateral and bilateral meetings in Moscow today with the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, and of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan, to discuss ways of de-escalating the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and the preparing a peace agreement between Baku and Yerevan, stated a [press release](#) from Lavrov’s ministry. The Russian minister emphasized the need to unblock the Lachin corridor and restore normal life in Nagorno-Karabakh as soon as possible, stating: “We appreciate that our Azerbaijani friends understand the need to ensure the rights and security of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

He further told Bayramov: “We would like to use this opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and the implementation of top-level decisions

made during the regular meetings between our Presidents. Russian-Azerbaijani ties are making steady headway. ... We are expanding our trade and have launched joint projects with regional or even global implications, for instance, the North-South international transport corridor,” referring to the INSTC being promoted by Iran, India, and Russia, that could also include both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The Russian Foreign Ministry noted that particular attention will be given to preparing a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia and to seeking a resolution to remaining issues, the unblocking of transport communications in the region, the delimitation of the Azerbaijani-Armenian border, and interaction of public figures and experts, and especially dialogue among the three countries’ lawmakers.

In a related development, on July 24 Armenia’s Foreign Minister was received in Tehran by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Both parties expressed satisfaction with their current relationship. They both stressed the importance of implementing jointly agreed projects, in trade, economics, energy, and transport. Mirzoyan presented President Raisi with the latest developments concerning the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh, lying within Azeri territory, had been disputed for decades. Iran, which shares borders with both countries, has an obvious interest in seeing the conflict resolved.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Eurozone Economy Is Sinking Fast

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—Under the pressure of the Green deindustrialization policy and anti-Russian sanctions, the Eurozone economy is sinking fast. Economic activity reportedly contracted in July at its fastest pace in eight months, according to data from the Hamburg Commercial Bank’s [HCOB Flash Eurozone Purchasing Managers’ Index](#) (PMI) survey published by S&P Global. Economic activity fell to 48.9 in July from 49.9 in June. A figure below 50 indicates a contraction of growth.

“Manufacturing continues to be the Achilles’ heel of the eurozone. Producers have cut their output again at an accelerated pace in July,” Cyrus de la Rubia, chief economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank was quoted in the S&P Global document. “The Eurozone economy will likely move further into contraction territory in the months ahead, as the services sector keeps losing steam....”

The collapse was led by Germany, where output dropped for the first time since January, led by a sharp decrease in factory output. The Eurozone, comprised of the 20 EU countries that use the euro as their common currency, had entered a technical recession already in January. Moreover, the European Central Bank is expected to raise interest rates again next month.

Western Nations Pressure African Governments Not To Attend July 27-28 Russia-Africa Summit

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—This behavior was denounced by Oleg Ozerov, chair of the Secretariat of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum. In an interview with RIA Novosti, reported by RT, Ozerov charged that the West is piling up “permanent” pressure on African nations to drive a wedge between them and Moscow. Western diplomats, he said, “are literally discouraging African states not to travel to Russia on a daily basis, bluntly demanding that African nations choose a camp—‘either you are with us or against us.’ ”

In addition to diplomatic pressure, he said, the U.S. and EU are using financial leverage, making financial aid contingent on whether African states attend the July 27-28 summit. He gave details of the agenda, on the dozens of bilateral meetings that will occur, and the “very solid package of agreements” that will come out of the summit. However, he said, “we don’t see African countries following this position of diktat... It is now evident that the Western bloc is struggling to bend all nations to its position for objective reasons.”

[RIA Novosti](#) also reported statements by presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov today referring to the “unprecedented pressure” exerted by the U.S.

and French embassies “and other Western missions trying to contribute their share to these efforts in order to prevent this summit from being held and to prevent the representation of African states at this summit.

EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

Preview of *EIR*'s July 28 Issue: 'We Need Millions To March for Peace August 6'

July 25, 2023 (EIRNS)—*EIR* Vol. 50, No. 29 goes to subscribers on Thursday, July 27. The cover photo is of the Schiller Institute's team and banner at the peace rally on July 22 at the Scranton Army Munitions Plant in Pennsylvania.

This week's featured reprint by Lyndon LaRouche is from 1999. It is titled “The *Washington Post* ‘Death Beam’ Hoax.” LaRouche sets the record straight, going back to the proposal of H.G. Wells that nuclear weapons should be developed *and used* as weapons so awful, that nations would give up their sovereignties to world government, rather than risk future general wars:

“From that time on, Bertrand Russell became the leading spokesman for Wells' policy of world government through terror of nuclear weapons.... That became the doctrine of the U.S. government, as pushed by the Pugwash Conference organization, and by John J. McCloy, McGeorge Bundy, Henry A. Kissinger, et al.”

LaRouche then describes the true background to the Strategic Defense Initiative, discussing the work of the Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF), “developed as a byproduct of my general specialization in the matter of Riemannian manifolds for purposes of long-range studies in technological attrition, and my rejection of the mechanistic delusion, that so-called ‘Coulomb Forces’ operate as law within the range of the sub-atomic and nuclear ‘infinitesimally small.’ ”

In Section I, Actions for Peace, are four items:

- A press release from Humanity for Peace, advertising its upcoming August 6 International Demonstration at United Nations Plaza in New York City, followed by a concert that evening of the Schiller Institute NYC Chorus and friends featuring a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*.

- An [Open Letter from Steve Leeper](#) from Hiroshima, "To Friends, Enemies, and People Who Have No Idea Who I Am," urging mass participation in the August 6 peace rally.

- A report on the International Peace Coalition's 7th weekly meeting on July 21.

- "JFK's Road from the 'Peace Speech' to the Limited Test Ban Treaty," an historical article from Carl Osgood.

In Section II, *EIR* continues its coverage of the Schiller Institute's July 8-9 conference in Strasbourg, France, with presentations from Panel 4:

- "The Blossoming of a New Paradigm," an introduction by Kevin Gribbroek.

- "What Would Erasmus Say About Peace in Ukraine?" by Prof. Luc Reyhler.

- "Culture Is the Key for Peace," by Maurizio Abbate.

- "On Demonization of Russian Culture," by Tatjana Zdanoka.

- "World Peace, Based on Common Ethics and Values," by Liz Augustat.

Section III, International, has two major reports:

- "The Nations of the Global South Assert Their Independence at the EU-CELAC and G20 Summits."

- "Russia Sends Free Grain to African Countries in Need; UN/West Cuts Food Aid."

A Science & Technology Briefs column closes the Section.