

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Reversing the Breakdown of the Very Fabric of Society

April 16 (EIRNS)—Over the last 15 days, since April 1, the total number of human beings infected with the coronavirus has doubled, rising from 1 million on April 1 to over 2 million today. In these two weeks, U.S. deaths from COVID-19 leapt six-fold, from 5,100 on April 1 to over 30,000 today, April 16.

In the last days of March, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced that the Federal Reserve would be channeling at least \$4 trillion to bail out the bankrupt trans-Atlantic financial system, at taxpayers' expense.

This bailout is already an order of magnitude greater than the disastrous 2008 bailout of the financial system—and an order of magnitude crazier and more dangerous. In 2008, the U.S. Congress was blackmailed into reversing their initial rejection of the TARP bailout, when Wall Street and the City of London told them that, if they didn't approve it, such chaos would ensue that martial law would be required.

What are the gun-to-the-head tactics being deployed by the British Empire to get their way this time around? How have they “flooded the zone” around President Donald Trump, for example?—as the ex-British ambassador to Washington once quaintly put it.

Over these same first two weeks of April, the British and their American partners in crime have sharply escalated their drive to unleash war between the U.S. and China—precisely the two nations whose close collaboration is needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to quickly build a World Health System, as Helga Zepp-LaRouche has called for.

Earlier nasty rhetoric and incitement to trade war have escalated into explicit charges—originating, as usual, with British intelligence services and trickling down through their American counterparts and credulous neo-cons in Trump's entourage—that China not only created the deadly

coronavirus in a Wuhan laboratory, but that they may have even infected their own people in order to then unleash it deliberately as biological warfare against the U.S. and the West.

Also over these two weeks, a new feature of the deadly double crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and the meltdown of the trans-Atlantic financial system, has emerged: institutional breakdown and chaos can be seen planet-wide. Food and other riots have begun in South Africa, India, and elsewhere; people in Europe and the United States despair of finding any rational solution to the crisis, and rail instead against the lockdown measures that have been adopted; and governments and multinational institutions show themselves unequal to the task facing the planet.

We are witnessing the breakdown of the very fabric of society—a breakdown which can only be reversed in the same fashion in which the Golden Renaissance uplifted Mankind from threatened extinction during the Black Death.

The LaRouche movement and its friends and allies are mobilizing internationally for the upcoming April 25-26 Schiller Institute conference, called to address and *solve* this existential crisis before us. We do so driven by the enduring concept of the Dignity of Man embodied in the following lines written by Lyndon LaRouche in June 1976, from the conclusion of his essay, “Laughter, Music, and Creativity”:

“There is a sick world to be rebuilt. In this world—typified by the disgusting linguisticians—we are plagued by herds of humorless, uncreative, officious louts, best summarily described as of an oppressively grey color turning toward an ominous yellow. Otherwise, the general population is psychologically stoop-shouldered with a burden of growing fears—fears whose exact nature and shapes those persons would prefer not to know—each plodding miserably from one familiar, greying place to another, ‘trying, somehow, to take care of my own personal business.’ Meanwhile, the storms grow.... There are storms of erupting and threatened regional wars, and overall the threat of general combined atomic, biological, and chemical warfare on a global scale. Meanwhile, sickened

rats proliferate, and the deadly new waves of killer and debilitating epidemics spread against man, beast, and foliage.

“We must shake this off, and build this world as it lies so immediately and wonderfully within our capabilities to do so. We must, meanwhile, wake up science, sweep away the rubbish, and otherwise become a generation to which the future will look back in warm pride of its ancestors. While we do this, we must laugh hearty laughter, laughter chiefly because of the excitement we rightly take from our achievements. For this, let there be music.”

- Watch the [Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger](#) on Friday, April 17: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley’s briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Xi Jinping Writes, with Firm Confidence, Concerted Effort, and Unity, Humanity Can Defeat Disease

April 16 (EIRNS)—In an article on the fight against the coronavirus in the new issue of *Qiushi* magazine, the theoretical journal of the Chinese Communist Party, President Xi Jinping argues that public health security is a common challenge facing mankind, and major infectious diseases are the enemies of all mankind. It requires countries to work together to strengthen international cooperation in an all-round way and to gather strong joint efforts to overcome the epidemic. He writes:

“What the international community needs most is firm confidence, concerted efforts, and united response, comprehensively strengthen international cooperation, and join hands to win this human struggle against major infectious diseases. As long as we work together and help each other,

we will be able to overcome the epidemic completely and usher in a better tomorrow for human development!”

No country can resolve the crisis on its own, he writes. “Only mankind working together can win this fight. In the era of economic globalization, such major emergencies will not be the last, and various traditional and non-traditional security issues will continue to bring new tests. In the course of responding to this global public health crisis, the urgency and importance of building a community of human destiny have become more prominent. Only through solidarity, cooperation and response can the international community overcome the epidemic and safeguard the common homeland of mankind,” writes the President.

Xi also refutes all the claptrap in the Western media about China’s response to the outbreak, declaring: “The Chinese government has always kept an open, transparent and responsible attitude, timely notified the World Health Organization and relevant countries and regions of the epidemic information, and released viral gene sequences and other information at the first time without reservation. China took timely and decisive and forceful measures and made tremendous sacrifices to fight the epidemic. The Chinese power, Chinese spirit, and Chinese efficiency demonstrated by the Chinese people in the prevention and control of the epidemic, and the image of China as a responsible big country have been highly praised by the international community. The international community generally believes that while comprehensively and effectively preventing and controlling the epidemic, China has actively cooperated with WHO and the international community in cooperation and information exchange, quickly shared the whole genome sequence of some strains, and developed a rapid test kits.”

In the article, Xi emphasizes China’s willingness to work with the World Health Organization and the international community to safeguard public health security, and calls on the international powers to cooperate in blocking the spread of the epidemic, effectively carry out joint prevention

and control, actively support the role of international organizations, and strengthen international macroeconomic coordination.

Lavrov Affirms, International Relations Will Be Shaped by Our Actions in the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 16 (EIRNS)—“The outcome of the fight against the coronavirus will show which countries and multilateral structures have withstood the test of this horrible threat, this crisis,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with press on April 14. (He drily suggested that “perhaps we will have a better understanding, for example, of what Europeans think of the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance.”)

“At this point in time, we must not lose hope and must do everything to make sure that this crisis inoculates nations against egoism, messianism and the temptation to pursue their interests to the detriment of others,” he said. “This will not happen overnight. There is a growing body of evidence showing how difficult it is to fight these kinds of threats alone,” referring to both the pandemic and economic crisis.

He slammed the campaign against China as “beyond the pale.” Here our Chinese friends, after overcoming the peak of the epidemic in their country, are “getting their economy back on track, and are not shutting themselves for the outside world,” but rather “using every avenue to help other countries and to share the expertise that they have gained in fighting this scourge in China.

“When we hear the argument that China will have to pay everyone for spreading this infection and allegedly someone failed to inform someone in good time, it is beyond the pale. I heard someone in London throw some numbers in the air and came up with 3.7 trillion dollars or euros that China allegedly owes to the EU for damages caused by the pandemic. Some are saying China’s foreign-based property should be seized if China fails to pay. There are officials who are saying this seriously and in public too. I think this is absolutely unacceptable.”

The complete text of Lavrov's interview is posted on the [Foreign Ministry](#) website.

Asked the next day about Lavrov's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian replied that Russia and Chinese mutual support at the time of each's need, shows that "as comprehensive strategic partners of coordination in the new era, China and Russia will stand firmly together to tackle the obstacles on the road of development ... and jointly respond to common threats and challenges to safeguard global public health security."

U.S. Ambassador to China Branstad Is 'Hopeful' U.S.-China Relations Will 'Be Better Going Forward'

April 16 (EIRNS)—U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad told reporters in Beijing yesterday that his embassy's "most urgent priority is to help get (personal protective equipment) and medical equipment to the United States as quickly as possible."

Ambassador Branstad said the U.S. has concerns about how China initially handled the virus outbreak in Wuhan, but he believes that such issues should be addressed after the pandemic has been brought under control. He said, "Let's focus now on saving lives and helping people," AP and CGTN reported.

He reported that 21 flights on behalf of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), along with multiple private chartered flights, have brought 1.2 tons of masks and other medical supplies needed to fight COVID-19, from China into the United States, with the help of the Chinese government. There has been a slowdown in those shipments, he said, but that appears to be the result of China implementing stricter quality standards following complaints that some of the equipment sent abroad had been shoddy.

Branstad emphasized the importance of the March 27 telephone conversation between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, which he said had been "really helpful."

Branstad pointed out that “we’re two big countries, the two biggest economies in the world. Our systems are very different and there’s always going to be certain areas of tension and conflict.” But, he said, “I am hopeful that because of the collaboration and work on fighting the virus, and also of course the phase one of the trade agreement, that there will be a better relationship going forward.”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

The Very Visible British Hand: Former MI6 Chief Orders West To Stand Up against China, Again

April 16 (EIRNS)—Yesterday, John Sawers, former chief of Britain’s MI6, otherwise known as the Secret Intelligence Service, pressed the United States to hold China responsible for the coronavirus pandemic, not the World Health Organization. Today, he attacked China on a different flank, insisting the “West must do more to stop China buying up technology.” This message, delivered in an interview with Sky News, has been played up by major media worldwide.

The immediate pretext for today’s attack was rumors that Imagination Technologies, “one of the jewels in Britain’s technological crown,” as Reuters put it, was going to be relocated to China by the Chinese private equity firm, Canyon Bridge, which bought the company in 2017.

Citing that as an example of China seeking “to expand its global clout,” Sawers asserted that “there is going to be deep rivalry over control of technology. We have more to do in the West to make sure we are independent of China.”

Even as he demurred that he doesn’t see China as “an existential threat in the way the Soviet Union was in the Cold War,” Sawers ruled out a new paradigm of cooperation. “We need to do more to protect Western technology from being bought up by Chinese companies,” he insisted.

Pompeo and Intelligence Community Escalate for War against China

April 16 (EIRNS)—Fox News yesterday published, complete with bells and whistles, the story that “multiple sources” in the U.S. believe with “increasing confidence” that today’s coronavirus pandemic “likely” originated in the Wuhan Virology Laboratory in China. Fox’s sources say—so far—that it was not developed “as a bioweapon but as part of China’s attempt to demonstrate that its efforts to identify and combat viruses are equal to or greater than the capabilities of the United States.” They also emphasize that “it’s not definitive,” and others in the Trump Administration are skeptical of the whole charge.

Fox’s story reads like the British “Russians Poisoned Skripal” charges from March 2018: all innuendo, no proof. There is no coincidence; a story planted in the U.K. *Daily Mail* on April 5 kicked off this “Wuhan lab” campaign, reporting that “senior sources in the British government say that while ‘the balance of scientific advice’ is still that the deadly virus was first transmitted to humans from a live animal market in Wuhan, a leak from a laboratory in the Chinese city is ‘no longer being discounted.’ ”

Fox ran with the story, in clear coordination with Mike Pompeo’s State Department. As Fox reported, the *Washington Post* had published the day before diplomatic cables from January 2018 which had been leaked by the State Department and claimed there was lax security at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Fox reporter John Roberts, joined by other reporters at the daily White House Task Force briefing yesterday, tried to use the story to get President Donald Trump to break with President Xi Jinping. Roberts asked him about Fox’s story. Trump replied: “More and more, we’re hearing the story ... but we are doing a very thorough examination of this horrible situation that happened.”

Next question: Have you raised State Department concerns about lax security “in your many conversations with President Xi, Mr. President?” Trump replied: “I don’t want to discuss what I talked to him about the laboratory. I just don’t want to discuss it. It’s inappropriate right now.”

Pompeo then told Fox News' Martha MacCallum that night, that "what we do know is we know that this virus originated in Wuhan, China. We know that there is the Wuhan Institute of Virology just a handful of miles away from where the wet market was.... You should know that the United States government is working diligently to figure this out."

MacCallum: "So how does this not have a very negative, heavyweight impact on our relationship with China going forward?"

Pompeo sidestepped the question, answering that he has been talking to "my counterparts all across the world over the past handful of days" about how China "needs to be accountable" for not sharing information in a timely fashion, which "put people all across the world at risk."

Esper Accuses China of Withholding Information on the Novel Coronavirus

April 16 (EIRNS)—Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, during an interview with Fox News, yesterday, amplified the accusation that China is withholding information about the COVID-19 virus. "Clearly, the Chinese could have been more transparent earlier and shared much more of the data. We would have (had) a better understanding of this virus and then how to deal with it," Esper said. "Even today we see them withholding information and so I think we need to do more and continue to press them to share."

Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley are not endorsing rumors that the virus originated in a biological laboratory in Wuhan, but they're not ruling it out, either. During an April 14 press briefing, Milley responded to a question that indeed there's been a lot of rumor-mongering and speculation in that vein. "It should be no surprise to you that we've taken a keen interest in that, and we've had a lot of intelligence take a hard look at that," he said. "And I would just say, at this point, it's inconclusive although the weight of evidence seems to indicate natural. But we don't know for certain."

Not all agree, by any means. The Joint Staff Surgeon on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Brig. Gen. Dr. Paul Friedrichs, however, was emphatic

last week that “if I could just be clear, there is nothing to that” story. He told Fox News, “Someone asked me if I was worried. That is not something that I’m worried about. I think, you know, right now, what we’re concerned about is how do we treat people who are sick, how do we prevent people from getting sick? But no, I am not worried about this as a bioweapon.”

Drums of War Escalate with Wild Charges that China Unleashed Pandemic on the West

April 16 (EIRNS)—Retired intelligence officials Col. Pat Lang and Larry Johnson are now retailing the crazed charge that the Chinese government willfully unleashed the novel coronavirus against their own nation, in order to inflict biological warfare against the West.

It is clear that both are being fed reports from the same “intelligence community” which ran the Russiagate fraud they had both rejected. If the “bioweapon” charge they are now conduiting becomes policy, it would constitute a virtual declaration of war against the most populous nation on Earth, nuclear-armed China.

For weeks, both had downplayed the danger of the coronavirus and the need for quarantine measures. Now, they sound like the creatures seized in an Invasion of the Body-Snatchers.

Lang announced on April 14 that his “Sic Semper Tyrannis” blog will “press the China War story”:

“I now consider the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) and the Chinese government to be enemies of the U.S. that are engaged in an undeclared war against the United States. The present pandemic is merely one theater of that war. It is apparent that the CCP has sought to nurture the creation and/or development of the COVID-19 virus. To that end they used their money to infiltrate American and Canadian research facilities to enhance the capabilities of their own research facilities. Some Americans in their worship of money above all aided that infiltration. We now receive a lot of obvious troll attacks from ‘friends’ of China. Some of them are from

Europeans. That is sad because for the CCP the Europeans are merely an inconvenience whose interests are ‘collateral damage.’ ”

Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson, in the wee hours of April 13, had posted on Lang’s blog an anti-China rant befitting the wildest of British geopolitical madmen. He set out to expose “the simple, horrible truth—the global spread of Corona 19 was a deliberate, conscious act by the Chinese Communist government to weaken the West, especially the United States.” He wrote of a “growing body of evidence that the launch of Corona from Wuhan was not the result of eating rotten bats or an accident at the level 4 bio lab in Wuhan. Instead of recruiting fanatics to wear suicide bomb belts, the Chinese Government appears to have chosen to infect its own citizens and send them out to major population centers in the West. It was a conscious plan to infect and weaken the West.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

U.S. Unemployment Reaching the Level of the Great Depression

April 16 (EIRNS)—With another 5.245 million claims for unemployment in the week ending April 15, and with revisions of previous weeks, some 22.5 million people, or 14% of the labor force, have become unemployed since March 18.

Given the nearly 9% of the labor force either unemployed, discouraged or forced to work part-time in the March unemployment surveys, taken *before* March 18, the real unemployment rate now could be estimated at 23-25%—a level not seen since the Great Depression. That estimate does not include the roughly 3.5 million longer-term labor force dropouts, who had given up seeking work a year or more before—in many cases, years before—those March surveys.

The Southeastern states and Indiana and Michigan suffered the highest new unemployment impact.

Social Chaos Threatens, As Pandemic Spreads

April 16 (EIRNS)—Social chaos is the newly emerging major danger spawned by the twin crisis of the pandemic and financial crash, as society's leading institutions fail to provide answers to the existential crisis facing the planet.

In Cape Town, South Africa, there were riots April 15, as police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse township residents protesting over lack of access to food during the coronavirus lockdown.

In India, thousands of migrant workers descended on the Bandra train station in Mumbai yesterday, desperate to return to their villages after a rumor had been spread that the lockdown declared by the Modi government would be lifted. In fact, it was extended for another three weeks. The Mumbai mobs had to be forcibly dispersed by baton-wielding police.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants who earlier had headed home, just as the lockdown was announced three weeks ago, are currently being held in government quarantine centers near their villages. However, according to press accounts, there is widespread breaking of the rules at these centers, with migrants breaking out of the centers at night to visit their families, and then returning during the day for free food. There is no way to determine how this is affecting the spread of the coronavirus.

BBC reported on this crisis almost smugly: “Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are among India's most populous states and have a combined population of more than 350 million. An outbreak in these densely populated regions could result in a catastrophe.”

The Banking Crowd Is Also Getting Nervous about Social Chaos—In Their Own Way

April 16 (EIRNS)—The *New York Post* wrote today that “Wall Street executives and analysts predict a tale of two economies: Wall Street traders will make money, while Main Street businesses face economic conditions not seen since the Great Depression.... Wall Street may recover fast as the economy founders. Wall Street execs are scared. They vividly recall the last

time economic bailouts were skewed to high finance in the aftermath of the 2008 banking crisis.... Wall Street fears that, given the manifestly unjust disparities now, the country could soon see social unrest not seen since the 1930s.”

The IMF also expressed its concern that social explosions could threaten the economic “restructuring” of victim nations, which is so dear to their heart. In a statement yesterday, the IMF cautioned that “some countries remain vulnerable to new protests, particularly if policy actions to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis are perceived as insufficient or as unfairly favoring large corporates rather than people. New rounds of protests could exhaust reform momentum (for example, regarding pension or energy subsidies) and put public finances at risk.”

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Libertarian Lunacy Infects Michigan Protest

April 16 (EIRNS)—Thousands of Michiganders on foot and in cars converged on the Capitol Building in Lansing April 15, organized by the Michigan Conservative Coalition as “Operation Gridlock” to oppose the stay-at-home orders of Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Meshawn Maddock, an organizer for the group, had the following infantile comment: “Quarantine is when you restrict movement of sick people. Tyranny is when you restrict the movement of healthy people. Every person has learned a harsh lesson about social distancing. We don’t need a nanny state to tell people how to be careful.”

Ms. Maddock is apparently unfamiliar with the concept of asymptomatic carriers of the coronavirus—or else she doesn’t care.

A broader coalition, Michiganders Against Excessive Quarantine, has gotten 200,000 signatures on a Facebook petition, which says: “We desire to retain our liberty by organizing in large numbers and commanding the attention of our legislators and governor. Our mission is to set a nationwide example by proving the people of Michigan are resilient, courageous,

intelligent, and our liberty is valuable. We can overcome COVID-19 without putting Michiganders out of work and further damaging our economy.” The online petition accuses Whitmer of sabotaging the Michigan economy by ordering a state shutdown.

A video of the march taken by one pathetic participant shows him saying: “This is America! Welcome to Lansing, MI, where we don’t get locked down!” That video is circulating on social media internationally, including in Italy, where it is being posted with supporting comments from Italians who also want to break their lockdown.

Some of the marchers were there to protest over the arbitrariness with which Governor Whitmer is implementing the stay-at-home policy. This contingent was clearly impelled, in part, by the fact that Whitmer is on Joe Biden’s short list of possible vice-presidential candidates, and the fact that she represents the green/left-wing part of the Democratic Party. Much of the Trump base was favorable to the protest as well, for similar reasons.