

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **Now ‘Russian Nuclear Exercises’ Are Thrown in the Public’s Face by Lying Media**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—The din of war in the trans-Atlantic media, the drumbeat of “Russian attack and invasion,” has now reached a crescendo. Can there still be some Leonard Bernstein of London who will raise the orchestra of the intelligence services to a still louder pitch, until American and

European publics actually believe that a Russian military invasion of Ukraine is underway? Will some stiff-necked journalists continue to demand actual evidence?

On Feb. 5 the *Financial Times* took the podium, with “U.S. Believes Russia Plans Nuclear Exercise To Warn West over Ukraine.” It declared with the London media’s usual evidence-freedom that “U.S. military and intelligence officials believe Russia is planning a major nuclear weapons exercise this month as a warning to NATO not to intervene if President Vladimir Putin decides to invade.” This nuclear weapons exercise should be in September, the *FT* decides, but the bully Putin is going to hold it in February or March instead to intimidate NATO when the invasion goes ahead. The invasion that, according to NBC on Sunday, Biden Administration officials believe is coming “any day now.”

“Russia generally holds its annual nuclear exercises—which involve testing intercontinental ballistic missiles from land, sea and air—in the fall,” wrote the *FT*. “But the U.S. believes Putin has decided to hold them earlier this year as a show of strength in the event that he orders his military to further invade Ukraine” probably in “mid-February to the end of March.” Then a somewhat unintelligible—perhaps crazy—analyst from the Hudson Institute is quoted, of this hypothesized February nuclear exercise, “It would be an incredibly provocative and foreboding message if they did that simultaneously with an invasion of Ukraine.”

What the *FT* presented as its war scoop—similar to Bloomberg News’ short-lived headline, “Russia Invades Ukraine,” on Feb. 4—actually was already apparently stated to the Congress Feb. 3 in closed-door, classified testimony by Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, and then leaked to Fleet Street.

What about the fact that the United States right now is holding nuclear weapons exercises, called Global Lightning 2022, which exercises are intended to simulate an extended nuclear war, with first strikes—nuclear and conventional—retaliatory second strikes, responses to those strikes, and on, with more and more of the nuclear arsenals being fired? Nothing

such inconveniently directed threat matters, facing the “Russia is invading Ukraine” drumbeat.

But it does matter to its real target, the human race. [Helga Zepp-LaRouche](#) in a Feb. 5 article said of Global Lightning, “This nuclear war plan includes not only nuclear weapons but various other lethal systems such as missile defense systems, directed energy weapons such as electromagnetic pulse weapons and lasers, cyberattacks, and Space Force attacks from space. Who would be able to survive such a prolonged nuclear war?”

There are some signs of motion toward a solution: French President Emmanuel Macron’s negotiation with Russian President Vladimir Putin gave signs of immediate, possibly productive follow-up from both sides. But the real solution can only be found in the direction Zepp-LaRouche indicated. The financial system is an immense mass of unpayable debts preparing to crash again, worse than in 2008, and the City of London and Wall Street can survive it only if they beat down Russia and/or China before it crashes, distracting millions in the process from perceiving the failing monetarist system. A new paradigm of economic as well as moral and cultural relations among the great powers is the antidote both to the coming financial crash, and to the resort to unsurvivable war. A New Bretton Woods credit system is urgently needed which can save Afghanistan and other war-destroyed nations, and build modern healthcare systems in every country to save people from pandemics.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday February 8, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## LAROUCHE

### **Schiller Institute Conference Feb. 19: 100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock—We Need a New Security Architecture! ‘A Nuclear War Cannot Be Won and Must Never Be Fought.’**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—The Schiller Institute will hold an international online conference on Saturday, February 19 to reassert that very sane declaration by the five nuclear powers and permanent members of the UN Security Council, which they affirmed in a joint statement on Jan. 3 of this year; but also to present a *solution* to the current crisis: the establishment of a new security architecture that guarantees all nations the right to security, and to economic and cultural development. To do that, a dialogue about the causes and the cures of the current crisis is also urgent.

In the last week of January, the U.S. Strategic Command launched the Global Lightning exercise to test the readiness of U.S. nuclear forces under a nuclear war plan, operative since 2019, based on the assumption that the United States and NATO would be able to survive a nuclear first strike by Russia or China, then retaliate, absorb further attacks, retaliate again, etc., in an ongoing military confrontation.

President Putin had announced Russia’s new nuclear weapons systems in 2018—including the Avangard hypersonic missile, the hypersonic cruise missile Kinzhal, nuclear-powered cruise missiles, fast underwater drones, and laser weapons—which was an enormous shock to the western military establishment.

But President Putin was responding to the 2004-2014 color revolutions and so-called “humanitarian” wars against all governments that opposed having their own nations looted. The State Department’s \$5 billion spent on NGOs in Ukraine alone is well known, which eventually became the Nazi Maidan coup of February 2014, on Russia’s very doorstep.

On Dec. 17, 2021, Putin presented two draft treaties to the United States and NATO, insisting that there be no further eastward expansion of NATO (especially into Ukraine), and no offensive weapon systems stationed on Russia’s borders. Given the lack of serious response so far, Putin has

announced “military-technical measures” in the event of a definitive refusal.

One American expert has written that he thinks Russia’s “military-technical measures” may include deploying sea-launched hypersonic Zircon nuclear-armed cruise missiles off the coast of Washington, D.C., which Russian experts have previously said could destroy the American capital so quickly the President would not have time to board Air Force One to escape.

More and more people are waking up to the fact that there are only the proverbial 100 seconds before midnight left on the nuclear war Doomsday clock.

To stop the clock, the causes of war must be addressed: 1) The hyperinflationary final phase of the trans-Atlantic neoliberal financial system; and 2) the deadly fantasy of the financial establishment in the City of London, Wall Street and Silicon Valley that they can impose their “rules-based order” in a unipolar world forever.

The root causes trace back to the shift of August 1971, prophetically recognized by Lyndon LaRouche, when Nixon effectively ended the Bretton Woods system by abolishing fixed-exchange rates and thus paving the way for speculative profit maximization. This caused the increasing shift away from investments in the productive physical economy and toward speculation in increasingly exotic derivatives-based financial products, and now “shifting the trillions” into the Green New Deal.

From the standpoint of the physical economy, the policy of driving investments into industries with the lowest possible energy-flux density ultimately represents an extensive destruction of capital, just like investments in the military production of weapon systems.

Far too many people are confused about monetary values, as distinct from real wealth. They have bought into the illusion that the share values of listed companies say something about the productivity of the economy—which they do not.

Some more level-headed voices have spoken out in favor of a new pan-European security architecture including Russia and Ukraine, in a new Helsinki agreement. However, in view of the complexity of the world situation, the threat to world peace affecting all states, and the indivisibility of the security of all, it is necessary to go beyond Helsinki and create an international security architecture that encompasses the security interests of all states on Earth.

Just such a proposal is elaborated in a Feb. 5 article published by Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche: “[100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock—We Need a New Security Architecture!](#)” This architecture must be based on the principles of the Peace of Westphalia; i.e., it must guarantee the interests of all states and, above all, their right to economic and cultural development. The maintenance of world peace requires a total and definitive renunciation of Malthusian politics, and requires universal access to the achievements of scientific and technological advance for all nations. This new order—the prerequisite for the survival of the human species—requires a new paradigm of thought that must draw upon the best classical traditions of all cultures at the highest humanistic level.

Who can deny that we are an indivisible community of destiny?

We have a choice: Either we let the clock tick away until the last of the hundred seconds has struck, and then there will be no one left to comment on the result. Or we can remember that we are the only known creative species in the universe, and shape our common future together.

## A NEW PARADIGM

### **RIAC and Schiller Institute Seminar on Afghanistan: Toward a Long-Term Solution**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—The Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) and the Schiller Institute (SI) will be convening a seminar on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Moscow Standard Time/2 p.m. CET/8 a.m. EST on the topic, “[The Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan: Toward a](#)

Long-Term Solution.” Among the subjects to be addressed by a panel of six speakers will be:

- What are the causes of the Afghan humanitarian crisis?
- What are the geopolitical implications of a failed state in Afghanistan?
- What is needed to reverse the immediate threat of mass starvation and refugee problems?
- A long-term solution to the humanitarian crisis: the role of the global powers.

Opening and closing statements will be presented by Dr. Andrey Kortunov, Director General of RIAC, and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the SI.

Other speakers will be:

Ivan Safranchuk, Director at the Center for Eurasian Studies of MGIMO University

Temur Umarov, Fellow at the Carnegie Moscow Center

Jim Jatras, U.S. diplomat, former advisor to U.S. Senate Republican leadership

Graham Fuller, 25-year career as a CIA operations officer, author

The seminar is scheduled for two hours, and will be available to watch at the website of the [Schiller Institute](#).

## STRATEGIC

### **Macron Thinks He Can Secure Ukraine De-Escalation**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—French President Emmanuel Macron has argued that Russia is not interested in invading Ukraine, and expressed optimism that—so long as the West is prepared to make concessions—he can secure a “de-escalation” of tensions surrounding Ukraine’s situation. Macron was meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today in the Kremlin.

All that is so far stated about the Putin-Macron meeting is that the Russian President told journalists afterward that it was “useful, substantive and business-like, and said that some of Macron’s ideas could form a basis for further joint steps,” according to Reuters. In a joint news conference, “Putin said that a number of Macron’s ideas concerning security were realistic and that the two would talk again once Macron had travelled to Kiev to meet Ukraine’s leadership. ‘A number of his ideas, proposals, which are probably still too early to talk about—I think it is quite possible to make the basis of our further joint steps,’ he said. ‘We have agreed that after his trip to the Ukrainian capital, we will call each other again and exchange views on this matter.’ ”

Macron had told the French weekly *Journal du Dimanche* before he departed for Moscow, “the geopolitical objective of Russia today is clearly not Ukraine, but to clarify the rules of cohabitation with NATO and the EU. An efficient and durable dialogue with Russia cannot mean the weakening of any other European state. To ensure and guarantee the security of the Baltic states, of Poland and Romania is essential and it’s a pre-established necessity. The security and the sovereignty of Ukraine or of any other European state cannot be compromised, just as it is legitimate that Russia should pose a question about its own security.”

Macron criticized the American refusal to end NATO’s controversial “open door” policy, warning, “We have to be very realistic. We will not obtain unilateral moves; it is essential to avoid a deterioration in the situation before building mechanisms and reciprocal gestures of trust.

He continued: “We Europeans have to deal with the post-Cold War situation, since we have friends, European sovereign states which built their independence 30 years ago and that still live with the memories of a traumatic relation to Russia.” But Macron insisted that “respect” is due to Russia, understanding the “contemporary traumatic experiences of that great people and that great nation.”

He concluded: “I think there is a predisposition on that part of President Putin for all of that. It is in this state of mind that I’m going to Moscow, to

... move toward a new order which our Europe deeply needs, and which is based on the sovereign equality of states.”

Macron also spoke by phone with U.S. President Joe Biden on Feb. 6, discussing “ongoing diplomatic and deterrence efforts” regarding Russia and Ukraine. The French President will visit Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kiev on Feb. 8.

### **Ukrainians Still Saying That Threat of Russian Invasion Is Low**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—While U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan is continues to say that a Russian invasion of Ukraine could come “any day,” the Kiev regime itself is still advising America to cool it. Ukrainian Presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak is quoted in an AP article, “An honest assessment of the situation suggests that the chance of finding a diplomatic solution for de-escalation is still substantially higher than the threat of further escalation.” Notes the British intelligence orchestra cannot bear to hear.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov is still speaking similarly, even to the point of criticizing foreign news media for stirring up war fears. “We have all the complete information and a realistic assessment of the situation. There may be a lot of different hypothetical assessments and forecasts nowadays. Especially in foreign media. Some of them even announced the invasion of [Ukraine by] Russia, which, however, took place 8 years ago,” he said, reported 112.International this morning. In Reznikov’s opinion, the military must consider all possible scenarios, even the worst, and do everything necessary to neutralize the threats. “This is what is happening now. The likelihood of a significant escalation of the situation today is still estimated as low,” he declared.

Reznikov apparently attributed this situation to the weapons and training that Ukrainian forces have been receiving from NATO countries. “Our troops have been actively training with defensive weapons. It’s a very effective way of restraining the opponent. The troops of Ukraine’s Territorial Defense Forces are being deployed, too. Civilians are getting ready, too,” the minister said.

Reznikov spoke similarly to the Italian daily *La Repubblica* earlier. An alleged aggression “may happen sooner or later, but there are no immediate risks. First, they spoke about January, now they speak about February, some say it will be in the spring,” he said, commenting on Western intelligence services’ forecasts. “We won’t be fighting, but when we are attacked, we will get prepared for that,” he remarked. According to Reznikov, Kiev is not hatching any plans for attacking Crimea, Luhansk, or Donetsk. “We won’t stage any offensive: Ukrainians are living in Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk and it would put them in danger,” he said.

### **U.S. Troops Arriving in Southeast Poland**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—Troops from the 82nd Airborne Division began arriving in southeastern Poland yesterday, following the landing a day earlier of advance elements of the division. At least three C-17 cargo aircraft appeared on flight tracking websites today heading into the Rzeszów-Jasionka Airport, just north of Rzeszow, in southeastern Poland.

Last week, the first contingent of 18th Airborne Corps troops arrived in Europe, where they will form a joint task force in Wiesbaden, Germany. The contingency headquarters, called Task Force Dragon, will be led by 18th Airborne Corps boss Lt. Gen. Michael Kurilla, reported *Stars & Stripes*. Kurilla is expected to arrive in Wiesbaden in the coming days, an Army spokesman said Feb. 6. The task force will fall under the command of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, which is led by Gen. Christopher Cavoli. Already on the ground is Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commander of the 82nd, who landed in Poland on Feb. 5, the Army said.

Polish military spokesman Brig. Gen. Wojciech Marchwica declared that the arrival of the Americans “proves” the solidarity of the alliance to support the countries of NATO’s eastern flank. He said that a total of 1,700 soldiers, “comprehensively equipped, trained and prepared to carry out various types of operations,” were expected to be temporarily deployed in Poland, reported PAP. They join other U.S. forces already in the country.

## COLLAPSING MONETARIST SYSTEM

### Still Waiting for the Fed to ‘Taper’—But Don’t Say It’s Causing Hyperinflation!

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—The latest Federal Reserve report still does not show signs of the “tapering” of quantitative easing (QE) which is supposed to have been executed according to Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting reports since Nov. 2, 2021. There is still less sign of the “quantitative tightening” and “rate hikes” which the Fed is alleged in every media account to be carrying out in order to “control inflation.”

Given that the so-called QE Infinity has had the Fed purchasing \$120 billion in Treasury and MBS securities since May 2020—when it slowed down to that rate after its March-April 2020 frenzy—simple math would say that the Federal Reserve’s holdings of securities, bought from big banks to give them a flood of new reserves, would have been increasing by about \$1.45 trillion in a year, including the year from January 2021 to January 2022.

But since the Fed’s “taper” announcement on Nov. 2, 2021 said it would reduce those purchases to \$150 billion in December and January combined, the year from the end of January 2021 to the end of January 2022 should have seen the Fed’s security holdings grow by only about \$1.36-\$1.37 trillion. But not so, not even close. The Fed’s latest “Factors Affecting Reserve Balances” report, as at Feb. 3—the end of the week straddling January and February—shows that the Fed’s holdings of Treasuries and MBS are actually up by \$1.55 trillion since the same date one year ago. That’s \$190 billion more than one would have expected if the Fed had “tapered.” Those holdings now stand at about \$8.92 trillion, neck and neck with the European Central Bank.

This doesn’t look like taking control of inflation.

On Feb. 7 a bizarre *Washington Post* front-pager admitted the possible conclusion that the Fed and other central banks have created the runaway inflation, but claimed only “conservative Republican followers of Milton Friedman” hold this view. The Fed has increased the U.S. dollar M2 money

supply by \$5.2 trillion, a completely unprecedented 40% in two years (compared to 10% in the two prior years). But the paper quotes Fed chair Jerome Powell that today's is a totally different monetary system. Why? Because the banks don't lend the trillions in reserves the Fed provided them with, and the American population doesn't spend the trillions the Treasury provided them with, they save it. *EIR* has often reported this derangement of the banks, lack of credit for the economy, and extreme wealth inequality of the population, which have come along with quantitative easing. But this article presents it all as a crazy new normal, and not conceivably a problem. And of course, the inflationary wave itself will disappear with the "supply chain disruptions."

So Powell is still claiming it's transitory after all, although you shouldn't quote and embarrass him on that.

## ECONOMICS

### **African Union Kicks Off 'Year of Nutrition' To Counter the Pandemic Collapse**

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—In recognition of the humanitarian crisis facing Africa as a continent, the 40th executive plenary session of the African Union, meeting Feb. 2-3, has declared 2022 as the "Year of Nutrition." In conjunction with the African Development Bank's Facility for African Food Security and Nutrition and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development, the AU program intends to put a spotlight on hunger alleviation, under the theme "Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development." As reported by MENA FM, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said the bank "will mobilize \$1 billion to support the delivery of climate-resilient technologies to 40 million farmers and produce 100 million metric tons of food to feed 200 million people," and that, "this will reduce the number of people facing hunger in Africa by 80%."

As a September 2021 background report by the AU indicates, the crisis is real, and the challenge is daunting. Quoting figures from a 2019 internal study—even before the devastation of the COVID pandemic—the report explained that 58.7 million (39%) of the world’s 150.8 million stunted children under the age of 5 live in Africa, and that only seven AU member states have stunting rates below 19%. Only 15 member states have child wasting prevalence below 5%. “Malnutrition is not only one of the worst killers of children under 5 years of age,” the report says, “but prevents children and adolescents from reaching their full potential, and traps entire populations in vulnerability.”

In addition to “the usual” causes of climate change, terrorism and COVID mentioned by the report, must be included another: the ongoing global financial collapse.

### **Almost Half the Swedish Parliament Backs Development of Nuclear Power**

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—In an op-ed today in *Svenska Dagbladet* and widely reported in public radio, all four party leaders of Sweden’s non-socialist opposition, representing almost half the parliament, called for development of nuclear power. The usually excluded Sweden Democrat leader Jimmie Åkesson is included in the group, with the party leaders of the Moderates, Christian Democrats and Liberals. They address the skyrocketing electric power prices, and also the expected doubling of power consumption by 2045 because of huge industrial projects and electrification of transports. They want to redefine the energy policy to develop energy that is “fossil-free” instead of “renewable”; thus, Sweden would reach the goals of climate change with 100% fossil-free energy by 2040, “including nuclear power as a self-evident part.”

The four parliamentary leaders further demand the authorities set new rules for Swedish nuclear power and a fast track to allow permissions (certificates) for reactors, systems and components from other countries. They also want to change the law to permit the construction of more than

10 reactors which was the earlier maximum number, and at more places to allow for smaller reactors.

This will be a significant policy debate in the upcoming national Swedish election in September 2022.

## U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### U.S. Freeze on Afghanistan's \$9.4 Billion Finally Makes It to Floor of Congress

Feb. 7 (EIRNS)—About halfway through the devastating winter of starvation and deaths in Afghanistan, the issue of the United States' freezing of \$9.4 billion of Afghanistan's foreign reserves finally made it to the floor of the U.S. Congress. Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) addressed the House of Representatives on Feb. 3, saying that "U.S. sanctions on the Taliban have impacted the broader functioning of the entire Afghan government, including schools and hospitals, which cannot buy food for the patients or gas to heat their buildings." As 1 million children face starving to death this death, "fatalities could far exceed civilian deaths resulting from 20 years of war." Freezing the reserves has made "it impossible for the country's financial system to function" and it threatens "to collapse the entire economy." She went on, for those who consider geopolitics as counting a lot more than humanity: "If appeals from the world's leading humanitarian and aid organizations on the devastating impacts of current U.S. policy do not persuade my colleagues, I ask them to consider whether Afghanistan's economic crisis will pose an opportunity for neighboring China to expand its influence on the country."

Jayapal's proposed amendment simply required: "An assessment of humanitarian impacts of U.S. and multilateral sanctions on entities and individuals associated with the current government of Afghanistan and the freeze of \$9.4 billion of the Afghan central bank's foreign reserves, including projections regarding potential mortality rate and refugee outflows...." The amendment drew 175 votes, about 80% of the Democrats and none of the Republicans. The effort was notable for drawing more

support than the 40 or so members of the Progressive Caucus that had called upon President Biden in December to end the freezing of Afghanistan's money.

In two different tweets, Jayapal explained: "By blocking Afghans from accessing their own money, we're creating a further humanitarian crisis. This amendment is critical to ensure that our government doesn't cause starvation and suffering abroad." And: "We should have a comprehensive picture of what is occurring, including an honest understanding of our own actions and their human impacts." Jayapal chairs the Progressive Caucus, whose policy director Keane Bhatt remarked that her amendment was "the first vote in Congress on U.S. sanctions threatening 22 million Afghans."