

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Create Peace and Turn the World Upside Down

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The tremendously inspiring and demanding conference of the Schiller Institute this weekend, and the concert of the Schiller Institute NYC Community Chorus concluding it, demonstrate that

there is something extremely powerful, something relevant and necessary, in the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche for the world today.

The whole world is in various stages of realization that the much-vaunted rules-based order is collapsing like a house of cards, and the LaRouche movement has emerged as bearers of the necessary ideas, and the necessary method of deliberation, for putting in place a new paradigm dedicated to the scientific and cultural creative potential of every human being.

A few recognitions of the collapse:

Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers expressed his acknowledgment that the U.S. is getting lonely as it alienates the world. “There’s a growing acceptance of fragmentation, and—maybe even more troubling—I think there’s a growing sense that ours may not be the best fragment to be associated with,” he told Bloomberg.

“There is a risk when we use financial sanctions that are linked to the role of the dollar that over time it could undermine the hegemony of the dollar,” current Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told CNN. “Of course, it does create a desire on the part of China, of Russia, of Iran to find an alternative.”

Germany has stupidly shut down its last three remaining nuclear plants, which will cause increasing blackouts and increase the use of coal for energy in that nation.

As a new paradigm sweeps the world, the risk grows of a catastrophic unleashing of chaos and warfare on the part of the Anglo-American empire. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche expressed it in her keynote speech on Saturday, “a ‘decoupling’—not only from China, but from the emerging new economic system—would not only mean the demise of the West into chaos, it would in all likelihood mean the escalation into nuclear war.

“We must therefore succeed by all means to convince a significant segment of the people of the United States and European nations to reflect about the significance of the historic change in which we are in the middle

of right now....” she assessed. “If we can mobilize these segments of people in Europe and the United States in time to recognize that it is in our best interest to cooperate with the BRICS-Plus, the SCO, ASEAN, the African Union, and other organizations of the Global Majority, then the human species will enter a new glorious era, where we can finally concentrate on the great tasks of humanity; on creating peace through development, overcoming poverty for every person on the planet, on providing universal education to every newborn child, on creating energy and raw material security through scientific breakthroughs, by cooperating in international space science and travel, by realizing that we are the creative species in the universe.”

She concluded with this: “And let me express a big ‘Thank You!’ and the applause of all good people on the planet to my late husband, Lyndon LaRouche, for what he has contributed to the current chances of humanity! Thank you.”

The conference is available at the [Schiller Institute](#) website.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday April 18, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

China Is Considering Gradually Raising Average Retirement Age from 55 to 60

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—While millions of Frenchmen continue demonstrating against Macron’s “pension reform” to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, most Americans and Europeans, who mostly have to work till 65 or 67 to get a full pension, if their employer provides such benefits, are unaware that in China the average retirement age stands at—55.

Since 1951, employees in China have been able to retire at age 60 for men, at 55 for salaried women, and at age 50 for female factory workers. The national average retirement age is 54.11. According to a recent survey, 74% of Chinese citizens said they would like to retire before age 55, while only 6% said they would want to retire at age 61.

Demographers say that raising the retirement age is a rational and timely decision considering the country's changing demographic structure: Life expectancy has risen from around 44 years in 1960 to 78 years as of 2021, and is projected to exceed 80 years by 2050. However, China's National Health Commission expects the cohort of people age 60 and over to rise from 280 million to more than 400 million by 2035.

Global Times on March 14 cited Jin Weigang, president of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security's Chinese Academy of Labor and Social Security Sciences, said the country was eyeing a "progressive, flexible and differentiated path to raising the retirement age," meaning that that for older employees, retirement would be delayed by a few months. People nearing retirement age will only have to delay retirement for several months, Jin told the daily. Young people may have to work a few years longer but they will have a long adaptation and transition period.

As of March China has yet to formally announce the change. Prime Minister Li Qiang said that the government would conduct rigorous studies and analyses to roll out a policy prudently in discourse.

Is Something Up with Shakeup in Russian Delegate to Eurasian Development Bank?

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The TASS wire reporting the April 15 government order relieving Finance Minister Anton Siluanov of his post as envoy to the Council of the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) leaves the clear impression that this was not a routine decision, but likely policy-related. First, the verb "dismissed" in the headline ("Siluanov Dismissed from Post of Russian Envoy to EDB Council"), and then the cited opening phrase of the decree effecting the change: "In connection with the profound changes taking place in international relations...."

Full quote: “Russia’s Minister of Finance Anton Siluanov has been relieved of performing the duties of the plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation in the Council of the Eurasian Development Bank until the subsequent appointment of a new plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation to the Council of the Eurasian Development Bank.” The April 14 [government order](#), signed by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, was posted to the official legal information Internet portal.

TASS describes the EDB, created in 2006 at the initiative of Russia and Kazakhstan, as “an international financial organization carrying out investment activities in Eurasia with the aim of expanding economic ties and comprehensive development of the participating countries (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan). Projects with an integration effect in the areas of transport infrastructure, digital systems, green energy, agriculture, industry and mechanical engineering account for the main share of the EDB’s portfolio.”

It is not formally tied to the Eurasian Economic Union, but the two institutions’ members overlap, except for Tajikistan, the one EDB shareholder which is not also a member of the EAEU. Armenia and Tajikistan became full members of the Bank in 2009, Belarus in 2010, and the Kyrgyz Republic in 2011, according to the Armenian Finance Ministry writeup.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Putin Meets New Chinese Defense Minister

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) met with China’s new Defense Minister, Li Shangfu, in Moscow yesterday. “You have arrived in Russia following the visit to our country by our great friend, my friend President of the People’s Republic of China, Comrade Xi Jinping. I would like to emphasize once again that this was a very productive visit. Of course, we discussed military-to-military cooperation, among other topics.

“Our two countries have maintained positive momentum in expanding our economic, social, cultural and educational ties. We have also been proactive in our military-to-military relations by regularly sharing actionable insights and cooperating on defense matters. We also hold joint military exercises in various theaters of operation, including in the Far East, Europe, at sea, on land, as well as in the air. I do believe that this constitutes a major track for strengthening the trust-based strategic relationship between the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China.”

Li said, who will be in Russia over April 16-18, said: “There are plans to implement your agreements with President of China Xi Jinping, reached during his March visit to Moscow. This is my first foreign visit after I became Defense Minister of China. I specially chose Russia, so as to emphasize the special nature and strategic significance of our bilateral relations.”

Li continued: “We have a very strong relationship that goes beyond the Cold War-era military and political alliances. This relationship hinges on the principles of non-alignment and non-confrontation with third parties, and these principles are very stable. Under your strategic leadership and that of the President of China, we are actively developing cooperation in practical spheres. Our relations have already entered a new era.”

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Says EU Weakened from London and Washington’s ‘Machinations’

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—Europe is losing its independence in its subservience to London and Washington, according to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzi, who made his remarks to an academic conference on “[Ukraine Between Russia and the West](#)” today. Galuzin was formerly the Russian Ambassador to Japan, before assuming his post as Deputy Foreign Minister at the end of November 2022. His complete speech is posted to the Russian page of the Foreign Ministry.

RT quoted Galuzin as telling the conference: “Due to political machinations of the U.S. and Britain, the opportunity for constructive

cooperation involving Russia, aimed at creating an independent center of power on the European continent, has been lost for decades.” Galuzin referred to the 2014 armed coup in Kiev, and the ensuing escalation of Russia-Ukraine tensions, leading up to the military conflict last year. He said Ukraine is being used by Washington as “a tool, even a consumable” in its attempt to cling on to its world hegemony.

TASS reports that Galuzin told the conference that the British have always feared a rapprochement among Russia, France and Germany. “In this context, the recent escalation of tensions between Russia and the European Union has been to the advantage of the Anglo-Saxons, while the sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines demonstrated just how far those who stand against mutually advantageous cooperation between Russia and the aforementioned European powers are prepared to go,” Galuzin remarked.

Regarding the standoff with Russia, the EU “has been forced to leave behind all pretense at independence and to unconditionally comply with the U.S. course,” Galuzin stated. That decision has resulted in a “rapid decrease of the EU’s economic and political clout in the world and worsened the crisis trends in the EU.”

FT Worried about ‘Challenges’ Faced by Ukrainian Military

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *Financial Times*, in an article yesterday, reports on the “challenges” faced by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in its much-anticipated spring offensive towards Crimea. “On one side will be around 35,000 Ukrainian soldiers, bolstered by Western battle tanks. They will face more than 140,000 enemy troops along a 950 km frontline,” *FT* says. “Separating the two forces will be a deadly obstacle course of mines, earthworks and tank-stopping bollards set by the Russians.”

Ukraine’s army, while adept at small-scale maneuvers, has limited experience of combined arms operations at this scale, analysts told the British daily. Furthermore, Ukraine’s forces have lost a large share of their most experienced soldiers, having suffered an estimated 120,000 casualties

(this is, in fact, the real significance of the months-long fighting around Bakhmut).

On the ground, Ukrainian forces will have Western-supplied heavy weaponry such as British Challenger and German-made Leopard tanks, U.S.-supplied Bradley fighting vehicles and self-propelled Archer howitzers, *FT* continues. But they will also lack decisive air cover to stop Russian fighter jet attacks that could, as Nick Gunnell, a former officer in Britain's Royal Engineers, put it, "squash Ukraine's specialist engineering vehicles" as they try to breach Russian fortifications, not to mention all of those Western-supplied tanks and other armored vehicles that will be following behind them.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

City of London Daily Comes Up with New Smear of Belt and Road

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—Once it was "China is using the debt trap," now it is "China is falling into a debt trap." The City of London financial oligarchy, via its *Financial Times* daily, is relentless in finding ways of smearing the Belt and Road Initiative, without caring about consistency. Now, the scribblers of the City of London have discovered that BRI investments are concentrated in "high risk" countries. Were they to concentrate on the City of London they would find inestimably higher-risk investment.

The *FT* shows, in "[China Hit by Surge in Belt and Road Bad Loans](#)," a chart by the OECD and the Green Finance and Development Center, with an impressively huge number of BRI countries in the "highest risk" category, with difficulties in repaying debt.

With that, they have discovered hot water. It is known that the BRI concentrates on high-risk countries, because the latter are in Asia and Africa. But the BRI aim is exactly to invest where infrastructure is needed. Therefore it is natural that some projects meet difficulties and defaults or debt restructuring occur.

The *FT*'s *schadenfreude* over China's having extended loans to non-performing lenders is a marked departure from their years of claiming that saddling countries with unserviceable loans was China's intended policy—the alleged “debt-trap.”

Top Priority for Germany Is To Reenter Nuclear Power!

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The switching off of Germany's last three nuclear power plants by Saturday, April 15 at midnight put an end to the toothless pragmatist debate on extending their use for some time that dominated the scene before. The only hope for Germany now is to have a competent debate on re-entering nuclear power, including the construction of modern power plants, and to accelerate the development of thermonuclear fusion power.

A reality without nuclear power is unacceptable for an industrial nation like Germany. What happened on early Sunday morning April 16 is a clear warning of things to come: to secure power supplies, Germany was forced to import electricity from all European neighbors, with France leading with 2 GW. Wind power supplied only 13% of potential capacity, solar panels even only 1.4%.

And that was on early Sunday morning, when power consumption is low also in private households, most of industry is not active anyway. If it had been a normal working day, it would have been an outright disaster, with government plans for drastic power rationing going into effect.

The “renewables future” the government is still talking about, is not going to come, as shown by the fact that installation of new, unreliable wind power is only one-third of what it should be according to government plans. Investments into wind power are much too low, and wind is an incalculable source anyway—as this early Sunday morning evidenced.

The “era of e-mobility” with millions of announced e-cars has not even begun yet, and it will not come because the power supply does not exist. Possessing an e-car does not make sense if the battery cannot be recharged, quite simply. And power-intensive sectors of industry cannot function this

way either. A lot of medium-sized and small companies will not survive, whereas the big industry like the car makers will try to produce outside of Germany, preferably in Asia. Since the automobile sector is the centerpiece of German industrial production, that implies massive job losses in Germany.

If Germany wants to survive as an industrial nation, particularly as a leading one in the world, it has to return to and expand its nuclear power. At the moment, the LaRouche movement's BüSo party is, as has been the reality before, the only one that has construction of new nuclear power and the rapid development of thermonuclear power on its agenda. It has to find allies among citizens in the fight for that. According to latest polls, between 52 and 59% of citizens disagree with the government's policy of exiting from nuclear power—which is certain to grow with the power scarcity that will be a constant companion of German developments from now on.

The absurdity of the German situation is additionally illustrated by Finland, which just completed the required test runs of its latest nuclear reactor and is committed to securing one-third of its national power supply from nuclear. And the Greens of Finland, after all a partner in the government coalition, are all for it!

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Senator Ron Johnson Describes Biden Family Grift as 'Jaw-Dropping'

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—In the category of news that's not news, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) told Fox News yesterday that recent subpoenaed bank documents confirm the conclusions of himself and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) in their 2020 report on the Biden family influence peddling scheme. While Johnson remarks that the "clock had run out" on the Republicans' chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, he has called on the House to take up the torch and subpoena bank documents on what Johnson called the Biden family "grifts," and perhaps recent revelations will keep that flame going. The only question remains to what end?

“Senator Grassley and I pretty well laid out the case against the grifting Biden family back in September of 2020 before the election. Our report was completely ignored by the media, just as they ignored the Hunter Biden laptop because they’re advocates for the left themselves. And so what we’re finding out now is just new pieces of evidence of the gifts that the Biden family have been involved with—the bank records that basically confirm what the Treasury records showed from Senator Grassley’s and my report,” Senator Johnson told Fox.

Fox News had reported earlier this month that the House Oversight Committee had previously subpoenaed four major financial institutions for bank records related to the alleged “grift” by the Biden family—Bank of America, Cathay Bank, JPMorgan Chase, and HSBC. In a memorandum from April 16 titled “New Evidence Resulting from the Oversight Committee’s Investigation into the Biden Family’s Influence Peddling and Business Schemes,” the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff says that the Committee recently obtained financial records related to John Robinson Walker, whom they describe as “a Biden family associate.” The memorandum then states that Walker’s company “received a \$3 million wire from a Chinese company in March 2017—less than two months after Vice President Joe Biden left public office—and that Mr. Walker then transferred over a million dollars to various bank accounts associated with the Bidens in the following months.” Various members of the Biden family are identified as receiving these transfers, including “an unknown ‘Biden.’ ” James Comer (R-KY), the Chair of the Oversight Committee is expected to reveal that name at some unspecified date, building suspense for what could turn out to be the “big guy” himself, Joe Biden.

While the narrative for this influence-peddling scheme generally describes Joe Biden as an agent of the “Chinese Communist Party,” even while his administration is preparing to wage war on China, Senator Johnson told Fox that the Biden family influence-peddling operation sought money from the sovereign wealth funds of over a dozen nations. According to previous report, emails reviewed by Fox News Digital shows that

sovereign wealth funds in Ireland, Oman and Qatar were also tapped by the Biden family.

“[O]ur report shows something like a dozen different countries that Hunter Biden was again peddling the family name, trying to sell influence. But I think, the trying to tap into sovereign wealth funds ... is pretty revealing,” Johnson told Fox. The Senator later rhetorically asked “why would they want to pay into the Biden family coffers and the Biden family grift? Well, it’s to gain influence. ... [T]he level of compromise of this President, I think, is just jaw-dropping.”

Given that the story of Biden family corruption was known during the 2020 election cycle, why is this being released now? That question should also be considered in the context of the four banks that have been subpoenaed so far, given their murky dealings in geopolitical matters—particularly Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and HSBC (formerly the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which ran the opium trade and eventual Opium Wars against China, along with JP Morgan). Notably, former FBI Director Jim Comey spent time at the British HSBC to supposedly take on the drug cartels before heading over to the agency and eventually playing a big role in “Russiagate.” And while Cathay Bank has been described as a “Chinese-connected bank” (although founded in the United States by immigrants from China), it entered into an agreement in 2021 with HSBC Bank USA to purchase HSBC’s retail operations on the West Coast, including 10 branches in Washington and California. Are these exposés designed to rein Biden in, or push him into the next phase of World War III via an attack on China? Or, are they just the latest phase of lame partisan posturing?

Yellen Warns That Sanctions Endanger Dollar Hegemony

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—“There is a risk when we use financial sanctions that are linked to the role of the dollar that over time it could undermine the hegemony of the dollar,” Treasury Secretary Janey Yellen told Fareed Zakaria in a CNN interview.

“Of course, it does create a desire on the part of China, of Russia, of Iran to find an alternative,” she said. “But the dollar is used as a global currency for reasons that are not easy for other countries to find an alternative with the same properties.”

But those reasons for the power of the dollar, including the supposed rule of law in the United States, are undercut by her discussion of “what might lie in the future” to get around “legal constraints on what we can do with frozen Russian assets.”

Stealing Russian assets would be one of the best ways to encourage nations to avoid the dollar!

If TikTok Is a Trojan Horse, Who Is Inside?

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—Those worried that TikTok is run top-down by Communist Party of China apparatchiks devoted to destroying the U.S. may be surprised to find out how many of the app’s employees are intelligence operatives ... of the United States!

Scouring LinkedIn, Alan Macleod at [MintPress News](#) has uncovered a bevy of State Department, CIA, FBI, and other intelligence officials working in supervisory roles at TikTok. Here are some examples:

The company’s head of data public policy for Europe previously served for four years as the State Department’s director of internet public policy.

A State Department diplomat who then worked at the Department of Homeland Security was hired as a trust and safety program manager—putting her in a position to influence the availability of content and the algorithms that recommend it.

A recent product policy manager for trust and safety at TikTok came from a decade of work at the State Department, including serving as the political and military affairs manager for Iran.

A recruiting coordinator came to the job following her tenure at the State Department’s Office of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs and as a member of the U.S. Army Cyber Command.

An escalations management lead for trust and safety worked until 2020 as a senior advisor for digital strategy at the State Department.

Just as the CIA and other intelligence and law enforcement agencies have long sought roles in shaping the legacy media of print, radio, and television, now today they intend to control the new fora for discussion. It is no surprise that they are trying to control new platforms such as TikTok as well, through what appears to be a pattern of placing “ex”-government officials in positions of influence.

As a result of algorithm changes prompted in part by government pressure, Facebook has dramatically cut access to alternative news websites. MintPress News has lost 99% of its Facebook traffic. “For the state, this sort of corporate algorithmic strangulation is far more effective than outright government bans,” writes Macleod. “It achieves the same suppression metrics while provoking far less public outrage.”

“Americans should not fear that TikTok is some sort of Communist Chinese trojan horse,” Macleod concludes, perhaps going beyond his evidence in continuing, “It is already being run by the State Department.”

Larry Summers Describes How U.S. Is Getting ‘Lonely’ as Other Powers Band Together

April 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—“There’s a growing acceptance of fragmentation, and—maybe even more troubling—I think there’s a growing sense that ours may not be the best fragment to be associated with,” former U.S. Treasury Secretary and President of Harvard University Larry Summers told Bloomberg in an interview published April 14.

“Somebody from a developing country said to me, ‘what we get from China is an airport. What we get from the United States is a lecture,’ ” he added. (Summers used that quote in his [tweet](#) to advertise the interview:

“We are on the right side of history—with our commitment to democracy, with our resistance to aggression in Russia,” he insisted. “But it’s looking a bit lonely on the right side of history, as those who seem

much less on the right side of history are increasingly banding together in a whole range of structures.”

He recognized that the failure of the Bretton Woods institutions to deliver development is a leading factor in the reshaping world: “If the Bretton Woods system is not delivering strongly around the world, there are going to be serious challenges and proposed alternatives.”