

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### Who Can Claim To ‘Defend Ukraine’ While Committing Mass Murder in Afghanistan?

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—So many institutions of the U.S. intellectual establishment are now echoing the Schiller Institute and demanding the release of Afghanistan’s aid and reserve funds—15 think-tanks and organizations in a Jan. 8 joint letter to President Biden and others on their own websites—that there is clearly a horrible realization: United States financial and economic sanctions are murdering an innocent people, for insufficient loyalty to NATO occupying forces. Any citizen who thinks this

crime is unrelated to the threat of an imminent, much bigger conflict over Ukraine, is mistaking moral posturing for morality.

In the U.S.-Russia meetings now going on in Geneva about NATO in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, moral posturing by U.S. diplomats has quickly and completely replaced the personal diplomacy between Presidents Biden and Putin which seemed to give hope of a solution. After the bilateral U.S.-Russia stage of the meetings on Jan. 10, State Department spokesman Ned Price said that the United States would never consider keeping Ukraine out of NATO, “*had not intended to reach any agreement*” with Russia, and did not even “consider the talks as a negotiation.” He concluded his briefing with a talking points list of Russian “malign activities,” to claim that Russia, and only Russia, had to de-escalate and make concessions, to allow NATO forces and missiles to complete their long advance right to Russia’s borders—while Russian troops must vacate their own western border regions and “return to their permanent bases.” Secretary of State Tony Blinken added, at the same time, a gratuitous attempt to gloat over Russia’s assistance to the government of Kazakhstan to control rioting and attempted insurrection.

Unless President Joe Biden intervenes personally again, Russia’s proposed agreements have been bluntly and permanently rejected. This is the equivalent of Nikita Khrushchev having refused ever to consider withdrawing Soviet missiles from America’s southern border in the terrifying Cuban Missiles Crisis of October 1962. At that time, tens of millions of frightened people around the world had already imagined what that refusal would mean.

Even if the consequence now is “merely” a conventional conflict in Ukraine, U.S. former chief weapons inspector and military expert [Scott Ritter](#) gives an idea why that would not go well for NATO forces.

What if the consequence is only the “complete rupture of relations” threatened by Putin and a deep and immediate Cold War. The nation with the world’s most rapidly expanding and technologically advancing economy, and with the greatest anti-poverty and development influence in

Africa, South and East Asia, is firmly in partnership with Russia. This is clearly shown once again in the suppression of the apparently failed “color revolution” attempt in Kazakhstan.

If the Biden Administration has decided the United States will attack and confront Russia and China together in a new Cold War—opposing them in space, fighting their policies of exporting nuclear power to third countries, demanding they stop using coal for power, attacking China’s Belt and Road and poverty eradication policies, and so on, who will it have in *its* corner? Why, the British Empire, of course—those green royals and Bojo the Clown and Her Majesty’s forces eager to deploy into Ukraine. What will America have in reserve? No development credit institution; a weak economic recovery from a deep recession; a labor force 3 million workers and 3.5 million jobs down from two years ago; declining real incomes; a Federal Reserve creating economic calamities worldwide, as the IMF warned Jan. 9, trying to stop the inflation it caused.

But far worse than any of this is the ongoing strangulation of the people of Afghanistan by U.S. sanctions. It is causing a growing cascade of deaths by starvation, by freezing in homes with no winter fuel, in a nation for which the United States clearly bears responsibility after 20 years’ war and occupation. Murdered for the sin of not sustaining a puppet government when NATO left it. *These* sanctions are a crime against humanity.

With this Afghanistan as its “banner,” nations will instinctively shun an Anglo-American attempt to make the rules for the world. There would be perverse new meaning, as Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche said today, to the phrase “Afghanistan, the graveyard of empires.”

This must be prevented, reversed. The policy must be changed to one of development, by Helga LaRouche’s Operation Ibn Sina. The Schiller Institute’s urgent organizing for this objective, will take its next step forward with a webinar on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 17.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday January 11, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### Grim Predictions of French Intelligence about Ukraine

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—An article headlined, “[Crisis in Ukraine: French Intelligence Considers Three Possible Scenarios](#),” on the website of the French radio station Europe 1, explores the threat of war over Ukraine. “A crucial day for the future of Ukraine,” it begins. “While Russia has already announced that it does not want to make any concessions, the European armies are not ruling out the possibility of a military intervention by Ukraine” and “French intelligence has already anticipated three possible scenarios,” not a single one involving peace.

“Three options are on the table. The first is a pure and simple invasion of Ukraine. According to French intelligence services, this could happen in less than a week. Between 100,000 and 150,000 troops are currently deployed along the border. In this scenario,” says author William Molinié, “significant casualties are expected, including among Russian forces.” According to Europe 1, the British have already made an emergency evacuation plan for their citizens.

A second invasion plan is being closely scrutinized, as it is considered “much more likely” by a senior French officer. It is the “annexation of the Donbas, a region in the east of Ukraine. The Russians could trigger an incident there to pretext an intervention and send tanks and infantry.”

Number three is, “Finally, the third scenario is the conquest of strategic cities in southern Ukraine to bridge Crimea annexed in 2014 by Russia.”  
[sic]

In all cases, concludes the article, “the European general staffs have in mind the strategy developed by the Russian Gen. Valery Gerasimov: a ‘new generation of warfare,’ a total conflict at the same time military,

economic and digital. For Ukrainian acceptance of the Russian presence is considered crucial, in order to be able to hold out in the long term.”

## KAZAKHSTAN

### ***Global Times* Reports on De-Escalation of Kazakhstan’s Riots, Escalation of Russia’s Influence**

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—*Global Times*, in an analysis article on Kazakhstan today, quoted four Chinese Central Asia experts to the effect that the past week’s events will lead to greater Russian influence and less U.S. influence in Kazakhstan. “[The situation in Kazakhstan](#) is basically stabilized by Sunday,” report Cao Siqi and Xu Yelu. “Wrangling between Washington and Moscow is also intensifying after Russia, which extended great assistance to Kazakhstan to quell the turmoil, rebuked remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that Kazakhstan might have a hard time getting rid of Russian troops, saying that the U.S. should reflect instead on its military meddling around the world.”

Chinese experts predicted that future relations between Russia and Kazakhstan will rise to a higher level, while Kazakhstan’s ties with the United States as well as those of other countries, will inevitably decline after this crisis. The Chinese experts also point out that “noises” aimed at driving a wedge between Russia and Kazakhstan, as well as other Asian countries, will inevitably decline post-crisis: Driving a wedge between Russia and Kazakhstan is an “an old tactic” of the West, and is “ridiculous.” “As Russia has already sent troops to Kazakhstan and helped control the security situation, the U.S. could only exert some diplomatic pressure. Further U.S. sanctions on Kazakhstan and Russia on the excuse of political interference can be expected, but will not have too much impact, experts said.”

Chinese analysts on Central Asian affairs said the situation appeared calm on the surface, but there are a number of unstable elements. Last week, the rise in fuel prices set off an explosion. In the 30 years since the disintegration of the U.S.S.R., the top political leadership in Kazakhstan

has remained unchanged. The gap between rich and poor, the COVID-19 pandemic, and outside forces cannot be ruled out as causes for the unrest.

“Since Russia supported the Kazakh government at a critical time, the country’s cooperation with Russia will be further enhanced and the mutual trust on military and security will be upgraded to a higher level,” Zhang Hong, an Eastern European studies expert from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the *Global Times* on Jan. 9. “It is obvious that the U.S. will not wait to see Kazakhstan become part of the Russian sphere of influence as Kazakhstan is an important country in the heart of Asia and an energy producer, where the U.S. has significant investments, Zhang said,” but its interventions will have diminishing effect.

## U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### Ray McGovern: It’s the Two Presidents, Stupid

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—Former CIA analyst [Ray McGovern](#), in a column posted on Jan. 7 Antiwar.com, attributed any move towards a reduction of tensions between the United States and Russia—if any—that comes out of this week’s diplomatic engagements, to the personal diplomacy between the American and Russian Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin. “As senior U.S. and Russian negotiators begin talks early next week in Geneva, the makings of a first-step-in-the-right-direction deal are already at hand. And for this we can thank Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin for serious, attentive, one-to-one conversations in the past several weeks,” McGovern writes. “You don’t need a degree in Kremlinology or tea leaves to understand how this came about and what led to the Biden-Putin talks: in one key respect the second (Dec. 7, virtual) was a carbon copy of the first (June 16 in Geneva).” Both came at Biden’s initiative, McGovern reports, but the summit in Geneva wasn’t their first conversation.

Things were coming to a head over Ukraine last spring, “culminating in President Biden’s strange call to President Putin on April 13,” McGovern reports. “During their conversation on April 13, Biden—out of the blue—called for a summit meeting with Putin. At the same time, Biden promptly

ordered two warships on their way into the Black Sea to turn around and instead visit Greece; and Kiev was told to cool its rhetoric.” On Dec. 25, the Russian Defense Ministry announced that 10,000 troops that had been deployed to training areas in southern Russia and Crimea were returning to their barracks. Western news media said almost nothing about that withdrawal.

Biden and Putin spoke again on Dec. 30, this time at Putin’s suggestion where, according to the Russian account of the call, they agreed on the meetings in Geneva now underway. “In this context, Joseph Biden emphasized that Russia and America shared a special responsibility for ensuring stability in Europe and the whole world and that Washington had no intention of deploying offensive strike weapons in Ukraine,” the Russian statement said. “Assuming the White House does not disavow that Biden made this undertaking, the step can be seen as a significant *quid* from the U.S. side,” McGovern concludes. “The *quo* can be quick in coming if Defense Minister Shoigu is told to announce the next withdrawal of Russian troops from areas near Ukraine—and get someone in the Establishment media to report it this time.”

### **Newspaper Reporter in Kabul Describes Afghans Starving, Freezing**

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—In what is certainly an unusual piece for the [\*Washington Post\*](#), on Jan. 8, Pamela Constable reporting from Kabul described, with representative pictures and profiles, “a large, newly impoverished urban working class” whose households are, at best, buying a very little fuel *or* a very little food each day, and gradually freezing and starving. “Many lack solid shelter and money to heat their homes at night,” feeding shavings from one or two logs, or just some cardboard, into a stove to try to survive the night with temperatures well below freezing and getting colder. The home described and pictured with several children, is “frigid.” But the reporter quotes a seller of wood and coal in Kabul, who says, “People can’t afford to buy now, and we can’t afford to sell. The government has collapsed, people have no salaries, and the economy has gone to zero.” In

other winters, “even ordinary people would take home 100 kilos [of wood] at a time. Today, I will be happy if I sell 20 kilos by dark.”

Most of the urban desperate, writes reporter Pamela Constable, don't meet the criteria of the UN High Commission for Refugees, the main aid distribution agency besides the World Food Program. A spokesman says, “They're not refugees. They haven't been driven from their homes, but they have lost their jobs, they have no savings, and their life systems are in collapse.” In other words, they are being killed by the pen in Washington, D.C. “They are not on our lists, but they come and wait outside the distribution sites, saying ‘What about us?’ ”

Interesting is the note about the Taliban government, which although it “has almost no means to help the poor, it has been coordinating closely with foreign aid programs, largely by providing armed escorts for supply trucks and security for crowded distribution sites. All supervisors and workers at the sites are Afghans. Officials who interact with the poor, such as needy people who come to the gates of the Refugees Ministry, also pass on their requests for help.” A WFP spokeswoman in Kabul, speaking of its “value vouchers” deposited at local banks and given to impoverished families, says “Nothing goes to the government.”

The article's conclusion is stated early: “The country's new rulers, cut off from most international aid as well as Afghan government assets held in U.S. accounts, have no resources to protect millions of vulnerable people against another harsh winter.”

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### IMF Not-So-Veiled Warning of Coming Global Economic Crash

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—In a not-so-veiled warning of a coming financial crash, the International Monetary Fund admonished today that emerging markets could be seriously affected once the U.S. Federal Reserve starts to tighten monetary policy—especially countries with high inflation. They warn capital could be rapidly withdrawn from these countries.

Posting on its blog, the IMF said: “Broad-based U.S. wage inflation or sustained supply bottlenecks could boost prices more than anticipated and fuel expectations for more rapid inflation. Faster Fed rate increases in response could rattle financial markets and tighten financial conditions globally. These developments could come with a slowing of U.S. demand and trade and may lead to capital outflows and currency depreciation in emerging markets.”

According to a report in the London *Guardian*, the Fed is expected to end its asset-purchase program in March, and to raise interest rates three times this year. One U.S. bank has predicted four such rate hikes in 2022.

Although the *Guardian* does not mention it, Turkey, which has 36% inflation and whose currency is collapsing against the dollar, with over \$600 billion in public and private foreign debt, is a prime candidate for a disaster which could contribute to initiating the global crash.

## NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

### **Argentine President Fernández To Make His Belt and Road Visit to China on Feb. 4-8**

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—Unless there are dramatic developments on the COVID front, Argentine President Alberto Fernández will be visiting China for four days Feb. 4-8, coinciding with the opening of Beijing’s Winter Olympics, including a meeting with President Xi Jinping, and a likely meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin who will also be attending the Olympics in China at the same time, *El Cronista Comercial* reported Jan. 9. Because of the pandemic, the visit, twice-postponed, will include a small Argentine delegation of only 15 people and will follow China’s strict COVID protocols. Its much anticipated highlight will be the Argentine President’s signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to join China’s Belt and Road Initiative, by which his government will seek Chinese financing for 17 infrastructure projects and also strengthen its strategic partnership with Beijing.

It's likewise significant that Fernández has just succeeded Mexico as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), as China and CELAC maintain a close collaborative relationship through the China-CELAC Forum. On Dec. 3, 2021 China and CELAC signed their [Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas \(2022-2024\)](#) outlining an ambitious agenda for cooperation across an array of areas.

Washington is not amused at these developments, but Fernández insists that the trip to Beijing reflects his “balanced” foreign policy of maintaining friendly relations with both China and America. According to the daily *Infobae* Jan. 9, he has reportedly promised the United States not to allow Chinese investment in the strategically important Ushuaia logistics base, considered to be an important Patagonian gateway to the Antarctic and the South Atlantic; nor will he invite China's telecommunications firm Huawei to bid on building the country's 5G network. He says he's looking forward to a personal meeting with Joe Biden sometime in the near future.

Nonetheless, Fernández is making this trip without having signed an agreement with the IMF to refinance the \$45 billion standby loan his predecessor Mauricio Macri contracted in 2018. The IMF is playing hardball, demanding austerity measures, a lower fiscal deficit than the government proposes, refusing to lower interest rates or extend repayment timeframes. Although Fernández is counting on the Biden administration for support in negotiations with the Fund, both he and his Finance Minister Martin Guzman have said austerity measures are out of the question. Negotiations are stalled and the first debt payment under the terms of the old loan, \$2.8 billion, is due in March, which Argentina cannot pay. Guzman will accompany Fernández on the China trip.

## GREEN 'GREAT RESET'

### World Economic Forum's International Energy Agency Greatly Fears Coal Resurgence in FLOP26 Aftermath

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—The International Energy Agency (IAE) issued a press release at the end of December: “[Coal Power's Sharp Rebound Is Taking It to a New Record in 2021, Threatening Net Zero Goals.](#)” The release warns FLOP26 goals are being collapsed. “ ‘Coal is the single largest source of global carbon emissions, and this year’s historically high level of coal power generation is a worrying sign of how far off track the world is in its efforts to put emissions into decline towards net zero,’ said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.”

The release says global coal demand appears to point to an all-time high in production and generation in 2022, as detailed in IEA’s Dec. 17 Coal 2021 market report. “Global power generation from coal is expected to [have jumped] by 9% in 2021 to an all-time high of 10,350 terawatt-hours.... Overall coal demand worldwide—including uses beyond power generation, such as cement and steel production—is forecast to grow by 6% in 2021. That increase will not take it above the record levels it reached in 2013 and 2014. Overall coal demand could reach new all-time highs as soon as 2022 and remain at that level for the following two years, underscoring the need for fast and strong policy action.”

### Germany Barely Escaped a Gas Blackout

Jan. 10 (EIRNS)—Virtually blacked out by the mainstream media, an incident occurred last month that could have caused a blackout of gas in Germany, had the government not intervened with a three-digit million sum to secure the supply of gas. The incident, reported in an article Jan. 9 on the website of the European Institute for Climate and Energy (EIKE) network of non-green energy experts, sheds light on the increasingly dramatic situation in the energy sector. The city of Berlin suffered a blackout on the Jan. 8-9 weekend, in which 90,000 customers lost power.

In December, the German Economic Ministry instructed the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) to transfer a three-digit million sum to Trading Hub Europe GmbH (THE) in order to secure Germany's supply of gas. The trading company would otherwise have been unable to pay for the gas it needs to keep the gas pipelines under pressure in December. THE GmbH is the central body responsible for the gas market in Germany. THE oversees the 40,000 km high-pressure power system that transports natural gas to consumers in Germany and organizes the expansion and, above all, the procurement of natural gas.

Since June 1 of last year, THE has controlled the entire German gas market and is responsible for purchasing and transporting the gas. Until then, the gas market had been divided between two "market area managers." The incident also sheds light on the precarious situation of the energy supply created in more than 20 countries by the liberalization and deregulation process decreed by the EU Commission. Before, it was the utilities that produced and transported the gas; this was replaced by a model that separates both activities, and furthermore created a speculative market of trading companies that were not even responsible for the transport and guarantee of supplies, nor were they the owners of any real natural gas. This insane system which Russia's President Putin recently exposed for what it is, makes it possible that the gas reserves which one EU country may still have, are not used to supply its own citizens in this gas crisis, but are sold to traders in another country where a higher profit can be made: for instance, German gas is sold to Sweden or Poland these days.