

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### Coal in Your Christmas Stocking

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—The good news is that Russia’s leadership cared enough to leave some coal in your Christmas stocking.

Over the last three days, Russia’s President Putin, former President Dmitry Medvedev and Foreign Minister Lavrov, amongst others, have gone out of their way to disabuse the West of a deadly illusion. Russia has no

longer any interest in begging for any sort of arms control treaty, as much as they previously thought it was the highest of priorities. They admit that they were wrong to treat the West as rational negotiating partners.

As Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council, put it in his Dec. 25 exclusive column in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*: “Regrettably, but there is no one in the West we can negotiate anything with.... For years, perhaps decades ahead, one can forget about normal relations with the West. This is not our choice. Now—let’s do without them until a new generation of reasonable politicians comes to power there. Let’s be careful and vigilant. We will develop relations with the rest of the world, which is very big and has normal relations with us.”

He explained that Moscow still needs security guarantees but, without a change in heart and mind in the West, they mean nothing. “New disarmament agreements are currently unrealistic and unnecessary. The sooner the maximum security guarantees that suit our country are received, the sooner the situation will normalize. If we do not receive them, the tension will persist indefinitely. The world will continue to balance on the brink of World War III and nuclear catastrophe. We will do everything to prevent them.”

Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) added his voice today in a discussion with various media, pointing at the West’s belief in the “Fukuyama” fantasy of “an end to history” meaning “the complete dominance of liberal ideology, democracy, way of life and the disappearance of the competing world system....” He addressed the press: “The course of history cannot be stopped, there is no and never will be an end to history,” and sooner or later the West will have to engage in genuine negotiations with other nations. “The course of history cannot be stopped. There is no end to history and there never will be. Humanity has more than once gone through attempts to subjugate it by one force or another, which set out to dictate everything and everything to everyone. So it will be this time.”

He concluded: “We are not going to run after the West. They ended almost all relationships.... We will focus on those who have never let us

down, with whom difficult compromises were sometimes reached, but when they were achieved, no one ever deceived anyone.”

Otherwise, consider a few developments. 1. The leader of a delegation from Ukraine’s Azov Regiment to Israel did a photo op at the ruins of Masada, with his modernized Nazi swastika on his shirt. There was not a peep of protest in the land. 2. The release of Matt Taibbi’s Twitter Files’ 8th installment show the FBI and their “thought police” friends muscling social media to censor mention of the “BRICS,” the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa grouping, representing a massive force for an industrial/agricultural/science-driven economic future. This is not the FBI doing a dirty partisan trick, e.g., for Democrats and against Republicans; but rather a more realistic insight into what the fascist drive wrapped up in the “Russiagate” package actually is. 3. Meanwhile, Brazil and Argentina are making plans for large-scale economic development projects, as Brazil’s newly-elected President Lula da Silva is to be inaugurated on Jan. 1. Yet over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, two violent plots against the inauguration were disrupted and arrests made.

As Lyndon LaRouche famously forecast, “I don’t know about a Happy New Year; but I can promise you a turbulent New Year.”

So, give thanks for the coal in your stocking.

Then, perhaps it is time to make a real new year’s resolution. Instead of being tormented by a Damocles’ sword nuclear war threat, or being tormented by attempting to squeeze such an uncomfortable reality out of one’s life, perhaps taking seriously the need to develop a “new generation of wise politicians.” It could put the “happy” back into the new year.

A fine start is to begin digesting the happy business of statecraft with the [Ten Principles for a New International Security and Development Architecture](#).

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday December 27, 2022: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche

Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

**Editor's Note:** *EIR Daily Alert* will skip an issue on New Year's Day, and therefore, there will be no issue published on Jan. 2: Vol. 10 Issue 2 will be published on Jan. 3, 2023.

## STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

### Medvedev Writes, West Is Incapable of Negotiations, Whence Danger of World War III

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—Former Russian President and Prime Minister, current Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council [Dmitry Medvedev](#) penned an exclusive feature on Dec. 25 for *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, the Russian Federation government newspaper, in which he argued, among other things, that there is no one in the West with whom Russia can talk. Medvedev argued that Western countries, by their actions, are undermining confidence throughout the world in themselves and their legal institutions, and their anti-Russian sanctions are a vivid example, TASS reported.

He recalled that Western politicians are seeking to seize Russian assets “without charge or trial,” or “simply to steal them.” Medvedev wrote: “The general crisis of confidence in the so-called developed countries and the legal institutions they have created is also obvious. For the sake of political interests, it turns out that it is easy to write off the fundamental principles of legal relations. Such as the inviolability of private property and the rule of international law. Western politicians who have violated the law are trying to confiscate Russian assets ‘without trial or investigation’—that is, simply steal them. A general credibility crisis to the so-called developed countries and their legal institutions is evident. It turns out that fundamental principles of legal relations, such as inviolability of private property and the supremacy of international law can easily be disposed of for the sake of political interests. And sanctions regimes against us and our allies are introduced with a stroke of the pen of narrow-minded Washington

functionaries and their European vassals. All this is the last signal to all other states: From now on it is impossible to have affairs with the Anglo-Saxon world. As with a thief, a swindler, a card sharper, from whom you can expect anything,” he emphasized.

Medvedev also detailed that the U.S. is practicing a form of neo-colonialism that is even worse than Rudyard Kipling’s arrogant notion of the white man’s burden. He cited as an example the Black Sea grain deal, “which has literally made a fortune for American big companies that bought up agricultural lands in Ukraine.... But the declared goal of preventing hunger in the poorest countries, where Russian and Ukrainian grain and fertilizers are exported, has not been achieved. They are receiving only 3 to 5% of such cargoes,” he reported. “Even worse is the case in countries where the United States sought to establish supposedly liberal and democratic orders. The case always ends, if not with bloody coups, then with a deep systemic crisis and decline in all areas. Libya, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan are the bitterest victims of American ‘democratic missionary work’ ”

As for the possibility of diplomacy, Medvedev said there is no one in the West with whom Moscow can negotiate. He refers to the outgoing year as a turning point, which demonstrated that “there is no room for trust, hope for the partners’ honesty, their commitment to their words and even to their finely worded principles in relations between independent and sovereign states with the Anglo-Saxon world in the current configuration.”

“Regrettably, but there is no one in the West we can negotiate anything with and there is no reason for that,” he emphasized. “Normal relations with the West can be forgotten for years, or even decades. This is not our choice. Now, we can do without them until a new generation of wise politicians comes to power there. We will be careful and vigilant. We will develop relations with the rest of the world, which is very big and has normal relations with us,” he pointed out.

This year, in his words, “has killed the last illusions about the present-day Western world, which is so fond (and absolutely in vain) of calling

itself the ‘golden billion.’ ” The recent developments “have canceled the very possibility of a trust-based and respectful dialogue with representatives of this world ‘pole.’ ”

Finally, he summed up the stark reality. Such behavior of the West undermines Moscow’s interest in “new disarmament agreements....” They “are impossible and are not needed at this moment. The sooner we obtain guarantees of maximum security that Russia will be satisfied with, the sooner the situation will normalize. If we do not obtain them—then tensions will remain indefinitely.” In this case, “the world will continue to balance on the verge of World War III and a nuclear catastrophe. We will do everything to prevent that from happening.”

### Neo-Nazi Azov Regiment Takes Their Act to Israel

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—Now that’s *chutzpah!* The neo-Nazi [Azov Regiment](#) sent a delegation to Israel last week, and the leader of the delegation, Lt. Ilya Samoilenko, had a photo op on Dec. 17 at Masada, even while wearing his modernized swastika.

Now, of course, one is supposed to look the other way. As Samoilenko explained to the Dec. 20 *Jerusalem Post*: “The battalion has changed. It has purged itself of its dark past. The only radicalism we embrace today is our radical will to defend Ukraine.” Samoilenko, one of the holdouts at Mariupol’s Azovstal in May, would know of that “dark past,” as he went to join Azov in 2014 (though delayed until 2015). But how does he explain that Wolfsangel insignia he still displays? The standard cover story—that the neo-Nazi founder of the Azov Battalion, Andriy Biletsky, put an “I” inside a roman “N,” and it accidentally resembled a swastika—is pretty hackneyed. Then there are all those actual Nazi swastikas tattooed on his Azov buddies, revealed in Mariupol last May—perhaps just too difficult to ignore.

Worse, the *Times of Israel* joined in with Samoilenko’s race-hatred. After Samoilenko told them that Ukraine was a “beautiful civilization,” while Russia was a land of “medieval cavemen,” the daily explained to Israelis: “He sees Israel and Ukraine on the same side, the civilized battling

the uncivilized in a struggle for the future of humanity.” Assumedly, since Israel is not shooting as Russians, the reader need only replace “Russians” with either “Palestinians” or “Arabs.”

Samoilenko is a war hero in Ukraine, having blown off his hand, mishandling explosives in the Donbass five years ago. He was accompanied by Yulia Fedosiuk, whose husband Arseniy Fedosiuk was in the Azov Brigade from the very beginning. According to Yulia, her husband was heavily involved in the physical violence at the Maidan, which immediately gave rise to the Azov, and Arseniy Fedosiuk was a founding member.

The trip was organized by the Israeli Friends of Ukraine, funded by the Nadav Foundation, which was founded by the dirty money of Russian-Israeli oligarch, Leonid Nevzlin, the partner of the infamous Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky. When they weren't asset-stripping Russia's Yukos Oil company, they co-authored a book, whose English title would be *Man With a Ruble*. They hate Russian President Vladimir Putin because, he ended their looting of Yukos. Khodorkovsky was convicted of tax evasion and fraud, Nevzlin convicted of conspiracy to murder. Nevzlin moved to Israel in 2005, where the Israeli Justice Ministry lost their case to throw him out of the country.

Now Nevzlin, who took Israeli citizenship, is the co-owner of *Ha'aretz* daily, and installed his daughter to run his Nadav Foundation. So, why not use his ill-gotten gains, extracted from Russia, to bring an Azov Regiment delegation to Israel, to degrade his fellow Israelis into “kissing the ring of the emperor”? If he also gets to thumb his nose at Putin, so much the better.

### **Lavrov Describes U.S. as Fixated on the Illusion of the 'End of History'**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) continued the last 24 hours' counter of various Russian authorities upon the West's self-destructive streak, speaking to Russian media today: “If you look at the policies that the administration of Biden is pursuing, they want exactly this. They want the end of history to take place not just in the works of political

analysts and political scientists, but for it to take place in real life.” Lavrov was referring to Francis Fukuyama’s infamous 1992 book *The End of History and the Last Man*. It argues that, as part of an evolutionary process, the world has arrived at the most perfect form of government which all nations sooner or later must adhere to: liberal democracy.

The Foreign Minister went on: “Everything that we see now ... is all a reflection of the very attempt to establish the end of history, to establish the final, irrevocable dominance of that same ‘golden billion.’ ”

Lavrov addressed the fallacy in Fukuyama’s ideological creed, saying: “The course of history cannot be stopped, there is no and never will be an end to history,” and sooner or later the West will have to engage in genuine negotiations with other nations. “Humanity has already gone through attempts to subjugate it more than once by one or another force that intends to dictate everything on everyone.”

He concluded: “We are not going to run after the West.... They broke off almost all relations.... We will focus on those who have never let us down and with whom we achieved very difficult compromises without any deception.... With the West, everything is exactly the opposite.”

## NEW WORLD PARADIGM

### **With Lula in Power, Argentina and Brazil Are on the Road for Bilateral and Regional Integration**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—Argentine and Brazilian officials have been meeting to discuss detailed plans for expanded bilateral and regional integration, which will be the focal point of their relationship once Brazil’s Lula da Silva takes power on Jan. 1. Brazil is Argentina’s number one trading partner (with China second), and the two economies are intertwined in many ways. Needless to say, expanded cooperation for development between these two nations and others in Ibero-America, especially Mexico, is anathema to London and Wall Street. The political and economic upheaval currently seen in many parts of the region—notably, Peru—is the doing of the City and the Street.

Argentine President Alberto Fernández will of course attend the inauguration on Jan. 1 in Brasilia and will welcome Lula to Buenos Aires on Jan. 24—as Lula makes Argentina the destination of his first foreign visit. Fernández, as rotating chair of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), will also welcome Brazil back into that important organization, one which Bolsonaro, as President, had abandoned. “Lula’s return can help to unite the continent once again, where globalization is in question,” Fernández said, according to *BAE Negocios*. “In CELAC, Brazil’s presence was lacking.”

On Dec. 24, Argentine Finance Minister Sergio Massa and key members of his team met in São Paulo with Lula’s incoming Finance Minister Fernando Haddad, and incoming Vice President and Industry and Commerce Minister Geraldo Alckmin. They discussed several cooperation projects, including Argentina providing natural gas and LNG to Brazil, and the creation of a common currency. The currency would not circulate but would only be used for trade. According to Haddad, this “would help break dependency on the dollar,” as quoted by *La Política Online*.

Brazil’s Economic and Social Development Bank, whose president will be Lula ally, economic nationalist Aloizio Mercadante, has already approved a \$689 million loan to finance completion of the second part of the gas pipeline from the Vaca Muerta shale gas deposit in Neuquén, Argentina, to the border with Brazil. The issue of financing foreign trade was also discussed. Massa’s office said in a statement that the projects discussed “must be part of the process of economic, financial, infrastructure and development integration of Mercosur (Common Market of the South),” and the rest of the region, according to *Diario de Cuyo*.

### **Brazilian Police Tighten Security for Lula’s Jan. 1 Inauguration**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—Brazil’s military police discovered two potential explosives attacks, planned to disrupt or halt the Jan. 1 Presidential inauguration of Inacio Lula da Silva, in Brasilia. The designated Justice and Security Minister Flavio Dino has announced that security will be heightened and “reassessed.”

On Christmas Eve, police arrested 54-year-old George Washington de Oliveira Sousa, who was trying to blow up a fuel truck in the vicinity of the Brasilia international airport. A search of his home found several more rifles, large quantities of ammunition and five explosive devices.

According to the Brazilian Report, Sousa admitted in his deposition that his goal was to create chaos, and to urge backers of outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro to act to create the conditions for a declaration of a state of siege, if not a coup. Originally from the northern state of Para, he had rented an apartment in the capital in order to join pro-Bolsonaro forces at an encampment next to an army base in the capital. Sousa will be charged under the anti-terrorism law and could face up to 30 years in jail.

The next day, Dec. 25, military police found another cache of explosives, bulletproof vests and more weapons located in woods at the entrance to the city of Gama, about 35 km from the center of Brasilia. Demolition experts successfully detonated the explosives.

Police say that Sousa was not acting alone, and incoming Justice Minister Dino reported that the police are specifically looking at the financiers of Sousa's weapons purchases. "This is obviously not a case of the so-called lone wolf," he said, in an interview with Globonews. "There are powerful people financing this. Undoubtedly, private interests and economic agents" are involved, he underscored, and they will be investigated.

Nonetheless, he vowed, Lula's inauguration "will take place in peace. All procedures will be reassessed with a view to strengthening security. And the fight against rioters and terrorists will be intensified. Democracy has won and will win," as quoted by Sputnik.

### **Catholic News Agency Features the Christmas Truce of 1914**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—In light of Pope Francis's offer to have the Vatican as a venue for unconditional peace talks between Ukraine and Russia, it is noteworthy that the [Catholic News Agency](#) (CNA) featured a lead story on the Christmas Truce of 1914. They tell some of the history of the event—

stories of how soldiers from both German and Allied warring sides emerged from their trenches on Christmas to greet each other, sing carols, and even in one instance play soccer together. Pope Benedict XV had played a role in promoting such a truce at the time, but unfortunately for many lives on both sides, the truce didn't hold and the devastating war continued for four more years.

The lesson is clear: There is a natural yearning for peace from all sane quarters—even among soldiers fighting each other on the ground.

As CNA writes in the article: World War I ended a few years later, but “strife, conflict, and sectarian violence continues today. Constant calls for ceasefires continue in places like Ukraine, with Pope Francis often a leading voice. The hope that this episode from history instills—the hope that on the day that the Prince of Peace was born, peace could reign on earth—is irresistible. Perhaps, this year, we might see something like the Christmas truce happen once again.”

## U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

### **Amendment To Bar U.S. Funding of ‘Countering Disinformation’ Operations Introduced in House**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—Rep. Louis Gohmert (R-TX) introduced a limiting amendment to the budget bill, to prohibit any funds to go to government “countering disinformation” operations, whether inside or outside of the United States. That would certainly include Ukraine’s notorious “Center for Countering Disinformation”—under the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council, and operating out of Kiev’s Office of the President—and its infamous blacklist, targeting American, European, and other citizens. The amendment also prohibits funds to any entity seeking to criminalize free speech. The amendment reads:

“None of the funds made available by any division of this Act or any amendment made by any such division may be made available for—

“(1) any Disinformation Board or Center, or any other entity substantially similar in concept or function, which purports to be a censorship board, supposedly to ‘combat disinformation,’ whether inside or outside the United States; or

“(2) any entity, inside the United State or abroad, which seeks to criminalize the exercise of freedom of speech, a quintessentially American right enshrined by the First Amendment of the Constitution.”

The amendment to the omnibus budget bill was submitted last week, just before the bill was passed by the House. The amendment, however, was never accepted by the Appropriations Committee, despite its being a “limiting amendment.” (As opposed to amendments that increase funding, a limiting amendment does not have extra steps to be taken up for consideration.) However, the precedent has been set for a Republican-controlled Appropriations Committee to take up in January.

While Gohmert is leaving office, other members have shown interest in pushing such an amendment forward.

### **Twitter Files #8: FBI Squelches Posts on the BRICS Economic Arrangements**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—The FBI and fellow “thought police” operators determined that social media postings, not only about neo-Nazis, or Joe Biden’s 2014 role in the coup in Ukraine, or Hunter Biden’s suspicious “job” at Ukraine’s Burisma oil company, but even about the BRICS grouping, had to be suppressed, if not censored.

This is the latest finding from the Twitter emails being released by Elon Musk, exposing the muscle that FBI and friends applied to social media companies. In Twitter Files #8, released on Dec. 24, investigative reporter [Matt Taibbi](#) states: “The files show the FBI acting as doorman to a vast program of social media surveillance and censorship, encompassing agencies across the federal government—from the State Department to the Pentagon to the CIA.” The Pentagon, CIA and other U.S. intelligence and law-enforcement agencies became increasingly “more aggressive” with

takedown requests. The FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force would channel the “takedown requests” to Twitter, as collected from “OGA”—meaning “Other Government Organizations.”

Sometimes massive batches of a thousand accounts were lined up for “digital execution,” with very little description of the problem requiring the execution. The FBI/OGA operation also streamlined the process, as the volume of requests expanded, by dedicating special personnel to “back-engineer” the takedown requests. They would begin with the structure of Twitter’s policies and then cast the offending tweets in the language and terms of the policy—reducing, ahead of time, any role Twitter might have in the process. Taibbi writes that Twitter execs acknowledged this as “odd,” but even then the company often struggled to justify the proposed censorship. Of some note, Taibbi credits John Kiriakou for “recognizing the formatting” of the CIA in some of the directives given to Twitter.

The evidence of the targeting of BRICS came from the email of an unnamed former CIA operative who had been hired as a Twitter executive, who wrote about the FBI/OGA’s “InfoBRICS” account: “Since BRICS is an inherently Russia-dominated economic organization,” it was “always likely ... directed by the Kremlin.” He marked that account marked “UNSAFE.”

Indeed, the BRICS, as a focal point for an anti-speculative, pro-industrial and -agricultural development economic arrangement, is unsafe for the cancer eating away at the London-New York derivatives speculation—yet possibly the salvation for U.S. industry and agriculture.

### **Kiracofe Reveals, West Votes To Oppose Development; Time for New Bretton Woods**

Dec. 26 (EIRNS)—[Clifford Kiracofe](#) describes in an article for China Focus, today, how Western nations and their allies had recently voted against resolutions at the UN promoting economic development and poverty alleviation for the world. “The stance of the Western countries and partners reflects the power of finance capitalism and its longstanding

support for neoliberal economic policy to the detriment of developing nations,” Kiracofe writes.

The author focuses on two resolutions of significance. The first was a resolution entitled “Eradicating Rural Poverty To Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which passed in a 123-51 vote. The second was a perennial resolution titled “Towards a New International Economic Order,” which passed with 123-50 (Turkey abstained). The opposing votes were by Western nations and their partners.

“Clearly there is a stark division between the West and its partners and all of the ‘Rest,’ ” Kiracofe writes, noting that the “Global South” overwhelmingly favors development while developed Western nations have other priorities.

He summarizes some of the history of the post-World War II economic systems which largely prevented the rest of the world from ever having a chance at actual economic development. These same structures are what is behind the so-called “Washington Consensus” today, which opposes alternative development models out of hand.

In concluding, Kiracofe references the looming economic crisis facing the world today—which has been made worse by bad trade policies, Covid-19, and now an energy and supply chain crisis—and calls for a New Bretton Woods conference. He writes: “In the face of the present international situation, cooperation is essential to meet unprecedented challenges. Various mechanisms, platforms, and processes have been created in recent years to address development. The Belt and Road process, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Economic Union, and BRICS are important initiatives. Today, a ‘New Bretton Woods’ conference with an emphasis on development as well as on the update and stabilization of the international monetary system must be considered.”