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EDITORIAL

Widespread Efforts To Divide Americans Plague Coronavirus Fight

April 6 (EIRNS)—The American people are suffering an obvious campaign to divide them and encourage them to believe false conspiracy theories about the coronavirus pandemic, rather than join together to mobilize science, production, and mitigation measures against it. They see a display

in their Congress and national media, aimed consciously at sabotaging President Donald Trump's attempt to mobilize the physical economy against the virus.

The “talking points” of this disruption, weaponized fantasy politics, are fixed in place. For Democrats: Trump is responsible for the disease and death among Americans. For Republicans: President Xi Jinping of China is responsible for disease and death among Americans. Both aim to stop the American people from taking vital instruction from the Presidency and from mobilizing themselves to take responsibility. The media, from CNN to Fox and many “non-mainstream,” alternative outlets, are striving to supply both talking points with manufactured “evidence.”

The aim of both sides is to prevent what is absolutely indispensable to stop the pandemic from killing untold millions, especially in the developing countries: U.S.-China joint action along with Russia, India, and other major powers. These propaganda campaigns have strong input from British Empire agencies also involved in anti-Russia crusades and in instigating “Russiagate” in the United States (see report below).

MSNBC and the *New Republic* have gone so far as to try to combine the two talking points: Xi and Trump together are the “Grim Reapers”—*New Republic's* invention—of the entire global pandemic. Both completely misused interviews with a leading researcher and author on emerging diseases and pandemics over the past 30 years, Laurie Garrett.

“How Trump, Xi Set the Stage for Coronavirus Pandemic” is the way MSNBC promoted a Garrett interview on its website. Interviewer Mika Brzezinski, a furious Trump-hater, daughter of Zbigniew Brzezinski, threw nothing but provocative partisan questions at Garrett, who did not answer any of them directly, although she is critical of both leaders. Garrett emphasized instead that “the only hope” of stopping the pandemic from devastating the entire developing sector is cooperation of Trump's America and Xi's China. She anticipated up to 36 months of COVID-19 resurgences. “As it disappears, slowly, in the Northern Hemisphere ... it will move to the Southern Hemisphere; we'll see explosion across Sub-

Saharan Africa, Latin America, Australia, the Pacific islands. And then it will come back to us,” she said. The cause in her view is not China or Trump, but globalization and privatization of healthcare by Wall Street.

Garrett’s piece in *New Republic*, “Grim Reapers” promo, is likewise “How Trump and Xi Set the Stage for the Coronavirus Pandemic.” As on MSNBC, though making clear she doesn’t like Xi or Trump and looks at them as “autocrats,” Garrett says that if they do coordinate to provide the world a new healthcare infrastructure in time to save millions, they should share a Nobel Peace Prize.

Americans should work for that, and not be manipulated into destroying the possibility.

- Watch the [Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger](#) on Tuesday, April 7: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley’s briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

British-Inspired War against Xi and Trump

April 6 (EIRNS)—An over-the-top article in the London *Mail on Sunday* pointed to a source, perhaps a prime source, of the anti-China conniptions to be seen on Fox, Drudge, Daily Beast, Breitbart, etc. every day. That source is a British “charity,” started by all the neo-cons who brought you the Iraq wars and all the regime change “endless war” of the past 30 years.

“China Owes Us £351 Billion: Britain Should Pursue Beijing through the International Courts for Coronavirus Compensation, Major Study Claims as 15 Top Tories Urge ‘Reset’ in U.K. Relations with Country”—that’s the *Mail on Sunday* headline, not the article—bases itself on London’s major drummer for confrontation of every kind with China. This “major study,” is by the Henry Jackson Society, which boasts that it

extensively penetrates both Mike Pompeo's State Department and the Pentagon.

The 44-page study, "Coronavirus Compensation? Assessing China's Potential Culpability and Avenues of Legal Response," which the Henry Jackson Society (HJS) released on April 6 appears to be no deeper than to take the entire sum which G7 countries have spent fighting the coronavirus pandemic—which it says is £3.2 trillion or \$4 trillion—and claim that China owes it all. £351 billion is simply the U.K.'s "share" in this intended legal warfare suit, as it says in its executive summary: "In order to preserve the rules-based international system and to protect taxpayers from punitive liabilities, the world should seek to take legal action against the P.R.C. for the breaches of international law and their consequences."

The listed "eminent individuals" who are "Signatories to the Statement of Principles" of HJS include former MI6 head Sir Richard Dearlove, originator of "Russiagate" and of the original 2002-2003 "dodgy dossier" then Prime Minister Tony Blair used to get George W. Bush to invade Iraq. HJS "International Patrons" include the U.S. neo-con warriors of the 1990s: Richard Perle; never-Trumper William Kristol; Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy; Robert Kagan, Brookings Institution, married to Victoria Nuland; former CIA Director James Woolsey, and others.

Its claim is that China was obligated by treaties to tell the world it had a new animal-based virus in December 2019—when the national leadership in Beijing was clearly unaware that was the case. Xi Jinping's government, in fact, in early January sacked both Hubei Province and Wuhan city officials in order to end the bureaucratic obstruction by some of them and establish complete transparency about the disease. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Dr. Anthony Fauci has testified to this establishment of transparency; CIDRAP's Professor Michael Osterholm said on April 2 that his University of Minnesota team had enough data from open sources to know by the first week of January, what was happening in Wuhan.

A similar threatening folly appeared in an article in the *New York Post* April 5, which claims that China “cornered the market” on medical supplies in January and February by importing large volumes, and making 3M corporation’s China division sell all its production to China. This article claims that President Donald Trump is thinking of suing China over this; but it quotes only the anti-China crusader Steven Bannon—who calls this a “biological Chernobyl”; Michael Wessell of the professionally anti-China “U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission”; and Christian Whiton, “a former senior diplomacy and trade adviser to the George W. Bush and Trump administrations.” 3M is quoted distancing itself from this idea and saying it is exporting 9 million N95 masks from China to the United States right now, but this is far down in the article.

The counter-accusations, that President Trump himself is responsible personally for the spread of disease in the United States, is equally wild. Consider: The *Washington Post*—supposed to be a national “flagship” publication—devoted 14 pages of its Sunday, April 5, first section to articles blaming Trump for all U.S. COVID-19 cases and deaths. Multiple reporters at the President’s daily task force conferences, led by CNN’s Jim Acosta, have relentlessly dug the same ditch.

Front-Line Physicians Are Not Waiting for Polished Antiviral Research

April 6 (EIRNS)—While rigorous, polished, double-blind studies have not been concluded to demonstrate the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, steroids, or the monoclonal antibody tocilizumab; and although media pundits and bureaucrats complain that there is no actual proof of the effectiveness of these treatments, healthcare professionals—through word-of-mouth and their own first-hand experience in treating patients—are using promising pharmaceutical interventions as part of an “all hands on deck” approach to try to save every patient they can.

At this point, numerous hospitals around the United States—including in the New York City area, as well as in nearby Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut—are using hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for a

large portion of confirmed COVID-19 cases. And Yale's protocol, as updated over the weekend, calls for the use of tocilizumab for cases showing ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome).

Background on two of these drugs: (1) Hydroxychloroquine has a hypothesized mechanism of action in preventing SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus-2) from entering cells, a mechanism of action that has been observed directly *in vitro*. (2) Tocilizumab, which is a prescription drug used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, is a monoclonal antibody. It binds to interleukin-6 (IL-6), a small protein that serves a signalling function in the body. COVID-19 patients entering the secondary phase on the infection, in which lung damage is caused in part by the body's own immune system, have been found to have very high levels of IL-6. By binding to (and thereby deactivating) IL-6, tocilizumab is believed to be able to shut down the devastating immune response. It is being used now, off-label, by physicians treating patients in moderate or severe condition.

Enough preliminary studies have been performed that front-line doctors are using the tools they have available to save lives. If tocilizumab (or the very similar sarilumab, which is currently being tested in U.S. trials) is successful in reducing the lung problems that kill sufferers of advanced cases of COVID-19, the death rate will be reduced, even if the infection rate is not. Although not certain, this could be a significant partial victory in the race to prevent and cure the disease.

Fortunately, physicians caring for patients are not as susceptible to the politicization surrounding hydroxychloroquine since Trump lauded its potential, nor to those who insist that steroids not be used to reduce inflammation. In these cases of drugs with well-known dosing and side-effects, many doctors believe that—in the case of patients for whom they are not contraindicated—the danger of inaction surpasses the potential downsides of using these medications.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

OECD Expects Huge Reduction of GDP, Insists G20 Must Rebuild Global Health System

April 6 (EIRNS)—Not widely reported is OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría’s statement presented at the March 26 G20 Videoconference Summit on COVID-19 pandemic, where he presented the stark reality of the economic consequences of the pandemic. A chart was presented that forecasts a tremendous reduction of Gross Domestic Product for the world’s leading economies, including a 30% reduction for Germany and 26% for the United Kingdom, Italy, and France; 25% for the U.S.; and slightly lower percentages for South Korea, Canada, Brazil and China, which would have an 18% reduction. The “tourism sector alone faces a decrease in output anywhere between 50% to 70%.”

Nonetheless, he said, this “is a cost that has to be paid today, in order to avoid much higher costs and even more serious consequences tomorrow.”

Gurría said the only way forward for the G20 countries is “to massively ramp up the production of medical infrastructure, equipment, and supplies, and to ensure that affordable vaccines and treatments are widely and swiftly available.” He underscored, “Special attention must be dedicated to the most vulnerable in our societies, considering the high inequalities in many of our countries. We also have to make sure that the health systems in the world are properly staffed. Our success in this war, on the health and human dimensions, will not only reduce the pain to our families and societies, it will also define our capacity to keep the economy afloat.”

While calling for action on several fronts, including “people and workers; businesses, particularly SMEs” (small and medium-sized enterprises), and in lifting trade restrictions, he particularly focused on aid to “developing and low-income countries,” saying “We should think of a Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative ‘on steroids.’ ”

He concluded: “We must learn the lessons fast. We need to ‘recapitalize’ our health and epidemiologic systems beyond narrow cost-benefit considerations so they have the necessary resilience to withstand

such shocks. We need to double down on investment in the research and development of vaccines. We need to inoculate our citizens from any future shocks.”

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Some G20 Leaders Preparing Coronavirus Rescue Package for Africa

April 6 (EIRNS)—Led by France’s President Emmanuel Macron, a group of G20 leaders, are reportedly preparing a European relief package to the impact of the coronavirus crisis in Africa that would include debt relief and financial aid. According to an article in *Politico*, April 1, “a comprehensive package supported by countries including France and Italy would incorporate recent demands from President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia, who have called on the world’s most industrialized countries to support the continent through the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.” Both leaders have called for debt relief.

Macron and Abiy spoke with each other by phone in late March, after Abiy had made a public call for a \$150 billion aid package from the G20 for Africa, which was to include a Jubilee debt-forgiveness for the poorest countries. In a statement released at that time, Ethiopia’s Nobel Prize winner originally proposed that interest payments on government loans “should be written off,” along with “part of the debt of low-income countries.” Abiy declared that the pandemic, “poses an existential threat to the economies of African countries,” adding, “Just as the virus knows no borders, our responses should also know no borders.”

After Macron and Abiy spoke, Mamo Mihretu, a senior adviser and chief trade negotiator to Ethiopia’s prime minister, told *Politico* that the global consensus for an aid package to Africa was growing fast. “There is a lot of momentum.... We are pushing for bilateral creditors to suspend all payments.”

Health Ministry projections seen by *Politico* outline a worst-case scenario for Ethiopia predicting 28 million people at risk of contracting the virus. Health officials are now working on the assumption that, in a worst-case scenario, Ethiopia could already be an incubator for a super-spreading event and that the health system will be overwhelmed in a few weeks. A shortage of medical oxygen supplies is one major concern.

France Finally Moving To Adopt Chinese Methods against COVID-19

PARIS, April 6 (EIRNS)—In very recent moves, France has dropped its non-strategy to contain the pandemic, and is reorienting towards Chinese methods. It appears now that this non-strategy—no need for masks for people who are not infected, no mass testing except to confirm those with very clear symptoms, and only a partial quarantine to guarantee that the number of sick do not overwhelm ICU capacities—was not determined by any scientific advice, wrong as that might be, but by the total absence of stocks and logistics in the country and government adapting to that shortage.

Under pressure from the medical and other professions, whose members have had to deal unprotected with contagion; from the high body count, now rising after 2,000 dead were found in the nursing and retirement homes; of associations threatening legal action against the government after a March 23 decree approving “end of life” methods against those ill in retirement homes—Newspeak for forcible euthanasia—the French government is beginning to move in a better direction. The roadmap by Jacques Cheminade’s political movement [*Solidarité et Progrès*](#), published on March 23 and updated since, which has been delivered to all elected officials and public administrations, also contributed to the change.

Following interventions from President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, Health Minister Olivier Veran announced on April 4, that France would abandon the previous credos, and was moving to make masks available to everyone in the population and to have a majority of the population tested for COVID-19. France has ordered close to €2 billion worth of masks, and ordered that test kits go rapidly from the

current 12,000 per day to 50,000 in April and 100,000 per day in June. Veran announced that permission was granted last weekend for public and private laboratories, human and veterinarian, research laboratories, and police and gendarme laboratories to start producing the tests.

The government has still to introduce a full China-style quarantine for all those contagious, including the asymptomatic cases, who must be quarantined as well, separately from their families and from those with acute illness, as was done in China. It's only when all those requirements are fulfilled that France will be able to limit the deaths and move out of confinement.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NASA's Bridenstine Says SpaceX Launch to ISS 'Is Going To Uplift America'

April 6 (EIRNS)—Discussing the first SpaceX launch that will carry a crew to the ISS, in excerpts from an interview with CNBC published on April 3, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine was optimistic that a mid-May SpaceX launch date was possible. But “if the launch gets delayed a little bit, we’re going to be OK with that,” he said.

One of the challenges the launch faces is the restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic. “We’re working through the coronavirus pandemic and we don’t know what the outcome is going to be,” he said. But even if that delays the launch, he said, “We’re going to get it done.”

“It’s going to uplift America. We need that moment right now in American history.”

'Nuclear Malaysia' Agency Attains Very High-Yielding Variety of Rice

April 6 (EIRNS)—Malaysia’s nuclear agency, Nuclear Malaysia, has helped develop a high-yielding variety of rice by using plant breeding techniques that involve irradiating the rice seeds to induce changes in the plant genetic make-up. Scientists can then select lines with desired traits and eventually the best variety.

“The new seeds produce more rice—nine to ten tons per hectare—as compared to only six tons per hectare produced by other varieties in the same planting areas,” said Abdul Rahman Helmi bin Mat Yusof, one of the farmers already using the variety in a trial project, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported on its website today. The farmers planting the new variety this spring will reap greater rewards than just more rice; they will also see higher incomes.

Along with a bio-fertilizer and plant growth promoter, this rice variety, called NMR152, forms part of an integrated approach intended to help the country’s rice farmers cope with low soil fertility and changing weather patterns. It is able to grow in conditions with little water, making it tolerant to drought, said Abdul Rahim B. Harun, Director of the Nuclear Malaysia’s Agrotechnology and Biosciences Division. This variety is also resistant to a common plant disease affecting rice, known as blast.

To get seeds of this variety from the development stage into the hands of more farmers, they need to be multiplied and quality-certified before being distributed on a large scale. In April 2019, Nuclear Malaysia teamed up with two companies for help. Working with a seed producer company, Nuclear Malaysia multiplied 300 metric tons of seeds on a special breeding plot located on the country’s east coast.

The seeds will allow farmers to plant over 2,000 hectares of rice in Peninsular Malaysia, and the rice planted with the new seeds would be able to satisfy around 170,000 Malaysians’ rice consumption for one year, IAEA observed.

Second Generation of Desert Locusts Now Maturing in Horn of Africa, Arabian Peninsula

April 6 (EIRNS)—While media coverage of the locust plague in Africa may have been eclipsed by coverage of the coronavirus plague there, in reality there was only a “pause.” A second generation has now hatched and, although they can’t fly yet (thus referred to as “hoppers”), they have the appetites of teenagers.

“Far from being over, East Africa’s locust nightmare may just be beginning,” heralds an April 1 article in the South African *Mail and Guardian*. It notes that eggs laid in February are now hatching. As a result of the failure of Western countries to respond seriously to this threat, Eastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula now face an enlarged threat, which is now serving these locked-down countries with further devastation.

“There is an awful lot of breeding that was not detected, not controlled, and now another generation of swarms is forming,” said Keith Cressman, the chief locust forecaster for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), “We’re seeing reports every day, more and more from Kenya, of these swarms.” A big part of the Western contribution to the fight was computer mapping software, supposed to identify likely breeding spots to be sprayed.

In its latest desert locust situation update, the FAO cautioned that “the situation remains extremely alarming in the Horn of Africa, specifically Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, where widespread breeding is in progress and new swarms are starting to form, representing an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods at the beginning of the upcoming cropping season.”

IMPERIALISM

British Empire Refuses To Release Julian Assange, Subjects Him to Coronavirus in Prison

April 6 (EIRNS)—Imprisoned WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange is not eligible for an early COVID-19 release from prison with 4,000 other inmates, because he is not a criminal—in British speak, he is not serving a criminal sentence, the London government told Australian Associated Press, reported *Consortium News*, April 4. Assange is being held by the British Empire, against an extradition request from the U.S. Department of Justice. Assange was the recipient of the leaked files from the Democratic National Committee and John Podesta, files that former CIA Director John Brennan and friends claim were hacked by the Russians and turned over to

WikiLeaks in a scheme to interfere in the 2016 U.S. elections in favor of then Presidential candidate Donald Trump.

British Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said April 4 that some low-risk inmates, weeks from release, will be let go with monitoring devices to help avoid a further outbreak of COVID-19 in the nation's prisons.

So far 88 prisoners and 15 staff have tested positive for the virus in British prisons. More than 25% of the nation's prison staff are quarantining themselves.

The British Ministry of Justice told Australian AP that Assange won't be among those released, because he is not serving a "custodial" (fixed term) sentence. Writes *Consortium News*: "In other words, because he has not been convicted of a crime, and is instead only being held on remand pending the outcome of the U.S. extradition request, he must remain in Belmarsh prison with high-risk inmates—the most serious and hardened criminals."