

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

A Modern Westphalian Order?

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—The axioms under which they operate, have led the U.S., NATO, and the other members of the OSCE to make essentially no response to Russia’s central security concerns, which that nation laid out repeatedly over a series of meetings this week.

But those axioms can be junked at the moment the decision is made to do so. And the accelerating approach of the menace of nuclear annihilation must serve as the catalyst for this change!

Will the Treaty of Versailles approach being taken by NATO—whereby the victor dictates terms to the vanquished—give way to a new Peace of Westphalia, whereby the interest of the other must guide a nation’s (and one’s own) actions, as the key to durable peace?

Consider the example of Syria, which has been pummeled by years of economic warfare, invasion by outside military forces, and support for domestic and imported terrorists. Despite its suffering, still the State Department and Members of Congress demand more blood. But China offers something else—something that the trans-Atlantic world *could* have offered, but didn’t. China offers development, investment, advancement, and growth. Syria just joined China’s Belt and Road Initiative, a modern approach like that of the Treaty of Westphalia that ended the brutal and bloody Thirty Years’ War by creating an *active* peace—one based on cooperation for the future, rather than recriminations for the past.

Can empty politicians, selfish billionaires, and City of London and Wall Street institutions be reformed?

Kazakhstan’s newly empowered President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev shows a way to achieve that goal, with a little “assistance.”

His country possesses vast mineral resources, a phenomenally wealthy elite, and great need for economic, cultural, and scientific advancement. To

help achieve those latter ends, Tokayev has announced the establishment of a “National Fund” to invest in “health care, education, and social services.” How will it pay for these investments? Tokayev is direct: through “meaningful and regular contributions to the fund on the part of businesses.”

“Thanks to the first President [Nursultan Nazarbayev], there is a group of very profitable companies in the country and a layer of people who are rich even by international standards. I think the time has come to pay back the people of Kazakhstan, and help them on a systematic, regular basis.” He even offers to help, by compiling a list of eligible “donor” companies, and a calculation of how much they should “contribute.”

A similar approach towards such extravagantly and unjustifiably wealthy institutions as the British monarchy, BlackRock, and Jeff Bezos could have a salubrious effect on both donors and recipients.

On a national and global scale, the [Four Laws](#) of Lyndon LaRouche can guide the establishment of a system whereby the many “contributions” given to the financial oligarchy over the decades can be redirected to create growth through infrastructure, technological leaps, and scientific advance.

The world is ready to be turned upside down. Will we take this great opportunity to think big?

Join the Schiller Institute’s Jan. 17 event “[An Injustice Anywhere Is a Threat to Justice Everywhere: Stop the Murder of Afghanistan](#)” for the outlook capable of creating such revolutionary change.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday January 14, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

LAROUCHE

Russian Think-Tank Publishes Interview Conducted by Harley Schlanger

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—The Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) website has published the transcript of the Jan. 6, 2022 interview its Executive Director [Dr. Andrey Kortunov](#) gave to Harley Schlanger, representing the Schiller Institute and *EIR*. RIAC's posting includes the [video](#) of their dialogue on YouTube. The two discussed the terrible danger of war and the prospects and perspective for cooperation.

NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Kazakhstan President Tokayev Seeks for Nazarbayev's Billionaires To Give Back

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—Kazakhstan's President [Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](#) addressed the elephant in the room—the harmful disparity of wealth built up over 30 years of financial agglomeration by insiders. In his speech to Kazakhstan's national legislature on Jan. 11, Tokayev announced the creation of a new “National Fund” to be funded by the billionaire circle around former President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The fund is “to solve real problems in the areas of health care, education and social services.” He expects “meaningful and regular contributions to the fund on the part of businesses. Thanks to the first president [Nazarbayev], there is a group of very profitable companies in the country and a layer of people who are rich even by international standards. I think that the time has come to pay back the people of Kazakhstan and help them on a systematic, regular basis.” His government is creating a list of eligible companies, along with a calculation of the annual sums to be “contributed.”

Syria Joins the Belt and Road Initiative

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—At an event in Damascus on Jan. 12, [Syria announced its participation in the Belt and Road Initiative](#) through a memorandum of understanding signed by Syrian Planning and International Cooperation

Authority Chair Fadi al-Khalil and China's Ambassador to Syria Feng Biao. "Syria was one of the foundational nations of the ancient Silk Road, especially the cities of Aleppo and Palmyra," said Khalil, who further declared that the agreement would bring about "the strengthening of the joint cooperation within the relations of our two friendly countries."

Even as U.S. sanctions and military operations devastated the nation, Syria continued to enjoy relations with China, which has provided investment and humanitarian assistance. As centralized state sovereignty over Syrian territory strengthens, China will see more opportunities for collaboration.

This week's agreement follows Xi Jinping's phone call with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in November, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's trip to Damascus last summer.

But the trend towards international recognition that Assad's government has staying power and an institution with which to collaborate, has not pleased everyone.

Earlier this week, State Department spokesman Ned Price denounced the trend toward countries' recognition and collaboration with Syria: "We have been very clear that we are not encouraging, and in fact, we believe that the conduct that the Assad regime has demonstrated, including the atrocities it has inflicted on its own people—this is not the time for rehabilitation of the Assad regime." He went on: "In some ways, this is a regime that cannot be rehabilitated, given what the Assad regime has inflicted on its own people." Ned Price should be more concerned with what the United States and the British Empire have inflicted on *other* people, and drop the sanctimonious pretense.

Nicaragua, which cut ties with Taiwan and recognized the People's Republic of China a month ago, also signed a memorandum to join the Belt and Road Initiative on Jan. 10. Then there's Morocco, which became the first North African nation to sign on to the BRI the week before. That makes three nations which have joined the BRI in the first two weeks of 2022 alone.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER**OSCE Turns a Deaf Ear to Security and Cooperation with Russia**

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—If we soon die in nuclear exchange, a hypothetical historian of the future might point to the kabuki theater performance carried out in Vienna today, where the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) met. One of its members, Russia, believes its security is compromised as heavy weaponry is moved up to its border, including missiles capable of striking Moscow within five minutes. It is pretty much a “Cuban Missile Crisis,” in reverse. The Russians present their case—but they are not even given the dignity of being told that they are wrong. Rather, their words simply disappear.

The press briefing by Russia’s envoy to the OSCE Alexander Lukashevich, as reported in TASS, was: “Regrettably, we have not heard an adequate response or some reaction to our proposals from our partners. Everything revolved around their concerns and Russia’s allegedly aggressive behavior, in particular, in the Ukrainian context. They have interpreted in their own way the principle of indivisibility of security, enshrined in the OSCE documents.” That is, while the OSCE documents hold dear mutual security, a deaf ear is turned when one of its members raises the issue.

“We put a specific emphasis on the behavior of the U.S. and NATO that continue to ‘develop’ militarily the territories of the states that joined the Alliance, and deploy strike weapon systems there, which poses a direct and immediate threat” to Russia. Lukashevich offered, according to *Pravda*, that the “systemic degradation” of the OSCE was to be blamed on the heavy hand of the United States and NATO.

Putin has been very clear that Russia has been pushed back so far, that it has no place left to retreat. The Russians’ only option, should the West choose not to respond, is “military-technical.” As Lukashevich put it, “We’re a peace-loving nation, but we do not need peace at any cost.”

All Russian Security Proposals Were Put on the Table at the NATO-Russia Council Meeting

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—The Russian military delegation to both the Strategic Stability Dialogue talks with the U.S. in Geneva and the NATO-Russia Council meeting in Brussels was led by Deputy Defense Minister Colonel-General Alexander Fomin. According to a statement issued by the Russian Defense Ministry on Jan. 12, Fomin stressed that “Russian-NATO relations are at a critically low level. This is happening against the backdrop of global instability, the terrorist threat, the deployment of another arms race, as well as the complete degradation of the security architecture in Europe.” He also remarked that “in the current legal documents regulating relations between Russia and NATO, there is a commitment to cooperation as partners, without creating threats to each other’s security.” It was stated that “the Russian side has repeatedly proposed to the alliance to take measures to de-escalate the situation. On the part of the alliance, Russian initiatives were ignored. This creates prerequisites for incidents and conflicts, and undermines the foundations of security.”

Fomin also reiterated the key issues for Russia as expressed in the two draft agreements released on Dec. 17 which are: firstly, guarantees of non-expansion of NATO to the east at the expense of Ukraine and other countries; secondly, the obligation not to deploy new American medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe, since the deployment of such weapons can dramatically worsen security conditions on the continent; thirdly, the restriction of military activity in Europe, the exclusion of the build-up of so-called “forward-based contingents.”

All proposals have been brought to the Russia-NATO Council and are on the negotiation table, the ministry statement concluded, further stating that “the Russian side expects constructive discussion in order to reach the preparation of agreements on security guarantees for the Russian Federation as soon as possible.”

Dmitri Trenin on Putin's 'Tactical Win' in U.S.-Russia Meetings

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—One of the leading Russian experts on U.S.-Russian relations, [Dmitri Trenin](#), today told CNN's pompous Christiane Amanpour that Russia "can consider the results of the meetings this week as a tactical win on Russia's central security concerns."

Trenin, who served in the Soviet army from 1972-93, and at Moscow's Institute of Europe and the NATO Defense College in Rome, is now the head of the Carnegie Moscow Center. "No one in Russia expected the U.S. to accept the Russian demands, but there will now be a written answer from Washington," he said. "This is not the end—this is the beginning."

Countering Amanpour's claim that Russian President Vladimir Putin is preparing Russia for war, Trenin said: "Putin is very careful in using military force. In Crimea, not a shot was fired. In Syria, professionals did the fighting, with few casualties. Kazakhstan is a victory—they are beginning withdrawal today. This talk of war is on the Western side, not on the Russian side. There is no feeling of impending war in Ukraine.... Putin is using the troops as leverage, to get the U.S. to listen and negotiate, to change the dynamic of European security development."

To Amanpour quoting the U.S. side's bluster, Trenin responded: "Get beyond the rhetoric. We know Ukraine will not be a NATO member soon, maybe never. The simple reason: the U.S. will not fight a nuclear-armed Russia over Ukraine.... It is not in the U.S. interest to deploy intermediate-range missiles in Europe, since Russia could retaliate by deploying nuclear-armed submarines to patrol the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. A compromise is in existence, despite twists and turns on the way."

Putin, he said, does not act for himself, but for Russia's interests. Ukraine is the last stand to prevent NATO coming to Russian borders. "He's not bluffing. Not only Ukraine in NATO is something that he has resolved to prevent and have a written guarantee from the United States, but he also wants no NATO in Ukraine, meaning no U.S. strike weapons and military bases that can hurt Russia from the Ukrainian territory."

Amanpour asked for the meaning of a “military-technical” response, as posed by the Russians. “Well, military technical response as opposed to military response does not mean military action,” said Trenin. “What it means is deployments of new weapons systems in areas where they did not exist before. I mentioned the possibility of Russia deploying a nuclear INF systems onboard submarines in close proximity to the United States. Another example would be closer military coordination between Russia and China. Mr. Putin is going to China soon, and he is not going there simply to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Games. He is there to have a very substantive discussion with President Xi Jinping. And that discussion will be built on Putin’s assessment of the first round of negotiations with the United States.”

Leading German Social Democrat Argues for Taking Russian Concerns Seriously

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—In view of the tensions between NATO and Russia, the German Social Democrats Bundestag leader Rolf Mützenich has called for disarmament initiatives. A solution would require “a European peace order including Russia,” Mützenich said, “even if this seems illusory at the moment.” He said he hopes for a “pan-European peace order that, as a ‘pluralistic security community,’ excludes war between its members and ultimately overcomes the military alliances.”

“Mentally, I can understand the Russian threat analysis, even if I do not share it,” Mützenich told *Tageszeitung*. NATO’s military spending is “far higher than Russia’s,” he said, and the U.S. defense budget alone is more than ten times that amount. “On top of all this, there is an unbridled, uncontrolled arms race. NATO and Russia must talk about this,” Mützenich demanded. “We urgently need disarmament initiatives.” Overcoming NATO is admittedly “unrealistic” for the next few decades, he said. “But I think we should at least start to overcome the sole fixation on military-political considerations.”

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

January 6 Committee: Ray Epps Is Not a Fed—At Least, That’s What He Told Us

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) has heard quite enough about government provocation of the events of January 6, thank you very much. Following pressure from Fox News’ Tucker Carlson, Sen. Ted Cruz questioned the FBI at a hearing, asking about FBI and other government services having agents or sources involved in the January 6 storming of the Capitol. Specifically, he asked about Ray Epps. That was too much for Adam Kinzinger, one of two Republicans (the other being Liz Cheney) on the Jan. 6 Committee.

In a series of tweets, Kinzinger defends Epps, who is shown in multiple videos urging people to go to the Capitol, participating in the initial breach of the restricted area and coordinating people’s action on the Capitol steps.

“He didn’t enter the Capitol on Jan 6, and was removed from the [FBI’s] most wanted list because apparently he broke no laws,” wrote Kinzinger, although Epps is shown in multiple videos as *illegally* being present in the restricted area around the Capitol.

Kinzinger’s tweets followed a statement from the Committee: “Mr. Epps informed us that he was not employed by, working with, or acting at the direction of any law enforcement agency on January 5th or 6th or at any other time, and that he has never been an informant for the FBI or any other law enforcement agency.” Kinzinger added: “Ray Epps has cooperated with the Jan 6 committee and we thank him....”

There you have it, folks! Ray Epps wasn’t working for the government, because ... he said so!

The carefully worded statement (which could, of course, simply be untrue) is narrowly tailored to speak of “law enforcement” agencies, but not military, intelligence, or other government agencies.

While the statements from Kinzinger and the Committee will no doubt be cited by “fact-checkers,” they prove nothing at all.

Trump Calls Politicians Who Hide that They Took the Booster Vaccine ‘Gutless’

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—Former President Donald Trump called out Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and others for failing to provide leadership regarding vaccines, particularly the COVID booster, which Trump has received. Previously, he has repeatedly stressed that the Operation Warp Speed development of COVID-19 vaccines was “one of the greatest achievements of mankind” and that it saved tens of millions of lives around the world.

In a Jan. 11 One America News interview, Trump remarked that he’d seen politicians dodge questions about receiving a booster “because they’re gutless.” Notably, Governor DeSantis, when Fox News asked about receiving a booster, had answered ambiguously that he’d received “the normal shot.” Later, his spokesperson explained that such matters are in the realm of his “personal medical decisions” and that DeSantis believes getting a booster “should be a personal choice.”

Congress Member Wants To Make Going to War vs. China Easier

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—At least one member of Congress wants President Joe Biden to be able to go to war right away, if he deems that China has “invaded” Taiwan. Biden “doesn’t have the authority [under the law] to actually respond” should China attack the island, complained Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA), throwing in the claim that a U.S. response is needed to maintain stability in the region—blissfully ignoring that the U.S. recognizes the One China policy under which Taiwan is part of China. “If China were to invade Taiwan today, the President would have to come to Congress for authorization to respond,” she said speaking at the Surface Navy Association symposium in Arlington. “We can’t lose months that it would take in order for us to provide a response.” She wants legislation, therefore, to make changes in the law to allow the President to intervene immediately—into what would in fact be a civil affair, and thereby far from defending Taiwan, would throw it into the midst of a geopolitical war.

In October Luria wrote in a *Washington Post* op-ed that the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act requires the President to seek congressional approval before intervening militarily in Taiwan.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Inflation Soars in the U.S. and the Eurozone

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—The U.S. annualized rate of inflation was 7% in December, the highest figure since 1982. The energy-price component grew at a 30% annualized rate, used cars by nearly 40%, and meat by 15%. However, the official figure for house rent is 4% below independent statistics, which run between 15 and 20%. The impression is that official statistics do not reflect the real impact of inflation on the middle class.

In the Eurozone, Eurostat estimated December's inflation at 5%, a 0.4% increase over November on a monthly basis. This refuted previous ECB forecasts of a declining inflation for December. Inflation as measured on staple foods is much higher. For instance, wholesale prices of pasta are 38% higher in Italy: a kg of durum wheat pasta stands at €1.40, up from €1.10 in September. At the end of January, it will be €1.52.

2008-2021: the Fed Bailout that Never Stopped

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—Bankrupt Wall Street megabanks are probably receiving from the Fed the same amount of bailout money, or even more, as in 2008-2010, according to calculations by Pam Martens and Russ Martens, authors of the [Wall Street on Parade](#) site. The only difference is that the bulk of the bailout is supported by the Fed repo facility, whereas in 2008 it was supported by the Primary Dealer Credit Facility.

“What we ... know about the repo facility, based on previous data released by the Fed, is that from Sept. 17, 2019 through the end of the program on July 2, 2020, a cumulative total of \$11.23 trillion was funneled to the Wall Street trading houses. That's 70% of the total \$16.1 trillion that the GAO audit tallied up as the cumulative total for the Fed's 13(3) emergency lending programs during and after the financial crisis of 2008.”

But the repo facility is not the only Fed bailout operation currently; there are 16 more lending facilities, 3 of which are the most opaque ones: These are a new Primary Dealer Credit Facility (PDCF), the Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF) and the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (MMLF), all of them announced in March 2020.

Under the Dodd-Frank Act, it is only on March 31, 2022 that the first data on the amount borrowed and the names of the banks will be published. March 31 is also the date for the Fed to release data on the use of its repo facility in Q1 2020.

One of those emergency lending facilities, the PDCF, has a criminal precedent. When it was first launched in 2008, it gave out trillions of dollars in cumulative loans to megabanks, in exchange for worthless collateral. In other words, it acted illegally, according to the Fed statute.

The Martenses wrote: “When the audit by the GAO was released on July 21, 2011 (exactly one year after the signing of Dodd-Frank), it showed that the Primary Dealer Credit Facility had sluiced \$8.9 *trillion* in cumulative loans to Wall Street trading houses. Instead of good collateral for the loans, as the Fed is required to do under law, it sometimes accepted stocks and junk bonds as collateral at a time when prices of both were collapsing. In addition, the PDCF loaned 64% of the entire \$8.9 trillion in cumulative loans to just three Wall Street firms: \$2.02 trillion to Citigroup; \$1.9 trillion to Morgan Stanley; and \$1.775 trillion to Merrill Lynch....

“If the Fed has propped up the same zombie banks for the second time in 11 years, the Fed must be stripped of any and all oversight of Wall Street banks and any and all ability to create electronic money out of thin air to bail them out.” (Emphasis in original.)

What will happen to those megabanks, if the Fed starts to seriously reduce liquidity, as indicated at the December Fed board meeting?

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

Seeking Scapegoats for COVID-19, But Missing the Global Context

PARIS, Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—Helen Christian, in her April 2011 student thesis, “Plague and Persecution: The Black Death and Early Modern Witch Hunts,” stated that “the intensity of the Early Modern witch-hunts can be traced back to the plague of 1348,” whose “devastation and the particularly unpleasant nature traumatized the European psyche, meaning that any potential recurrence of plague was a motivation to search for scapegoats.” An initial search for scapegoats has not been difficult to identify in the case of COVID-19: China was falsely blamed for covering up the existence of the disease, a remarkable claim after its large-scale testing, contact tracing, lockdowns, and emergency hospital construction.

The social-Darwinism underlying the current trans-Atlantic neo-liberal economic model is once again producing that phenomenon in a more general sense of angst, primed to be directed by the unscrupulous.

Some loudly proclaim that statements (and actions) against the use of hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin are responsible for millions of deaths, often wearing blinders to other issues.

Socratic discussions with people who are not vaccinated should be undertaken, to address concerns about the risks and benefits of vaccines and to develop accurate assessments of the various treatments; but scapegoating “the unvaccinated” or will not save the planet from COVID-19. Adopting a worldwide policy of zero COVID, which has been shown locally successful in China and other locations, will work.

Today, a new law is being considered by the Quebec government. Instead of blaming the financial oligarchy, and its Malthusian outlook that seeks population reduction, the law would impose a tax on people who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19, arguing they represent a “financial burden.” The Quebec Premier explained that while unvaccinated adults represent only 10% of the population, they account for 50% of people in intensive care.

A few days ago, Quebec had already announced that certain non-essential businesses would be closed to non-vaccinated people, starting with its stores selling alcohol and cannabis. (Quebec reported a marked increase in vaccinations in the following week.) The Canadian federal government is even studying the possibility of depriving unemployed Canadians who refuse to be vaccinated of their unemployment benefits.

In many other countries, the conflict over vaccination is growing. Already Singapore no longer covers the medical costs of coronavirus patients who refuse to be vaccinated. In France, radical anti-vaxers have branded medics as “[Nazi] collaborators” and issued death threats against doctors and members of Parliament. The French government wants to institute a vaccine pass to “nudge” a remaining 5 million Frenchmen into vaccination. Not uplifting the debate, President Emmanuel Macron, seeking re-election, said provocatively: “I really want to piss off the unvaccinated.”

Every human being deserves health care.

How about a commitment to rapidly develop the availability of quality healthcare for every person on the planet? Most of the world’s unvaccinated do not live in the United States, or France, or Canada, but in the Global South. Where is the mandate for *their* vaccines?

Study Compares the Relative Virulence of Omicron and Delta

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—The results of a statistical study provided some measure as to how much less virulent the Omicron variant is, compared to, so far, the most virulent one, Delta. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky called attention to the study by researchers at the University of California Berkeley, in a tweet. The results of 52,297 Omicron cases and 16,982 Delta cases in southern California between Nov. 30, 2021 and Jan. 1, 2022, showed that there was 53% less risk of symptomatic hospitalization with Omicron; 74% less for admission to ICU; and there were 91% fewer deaths. Further, no Omicron patients required mechanical ventilation.

The raw figures had 222 Delta cases (1.3%) and 235 Omicron cases (0.5%) requiring hospitalization. It is worth noting that the new term “symptomatic hospitalization” is employed to eliminate from the count those patients who were hospitalized for non-COVID-19 reasons but then tested positive. While they undoubtedly add extra demands upon the hospital, their situations do not speak to the virulence of Omicron.

U.S. Supreme Court Stays OSHA Vaccine Mandate, Reinstates Enforcement of Vaccines for Health Workers

Jan. 13 (EIRNS)—In two decisions released today, the U.S. Supreme Court has stayed the enforcement of a rule for businesses with 100 or more employees to require vaccination or weekly testing, while ending injunctions that prevented the application of a rule requiring vaccination for healthcare workers.

The court reasoned that the general workplace regulations, created by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), stand a reasonable chance of being successfully challenged in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and therefore cannot be enforced until that case, if brought, is decided. The 6-3 ruling does not address the constitutionality of vaccine mandates per se, but whether OSHA is in a position to create such a sweeping regulation. It does not mean, for example, that the court would reject as unconstitutional such a requirement if it were passed by Congress.

In the case of the requirement for vaccination in health facilities providing care reimbursed by Medicare or Medicaid, the court ruled 5-4 that the Department of Health and Human Services was not overstepping its bounds in enacting the requirement; the rule will be enforced while challenges to it work their way through the appeals process.

The result, for now, is that employers are not required to enforce a vaccine-or-test policy, and that healthcare workplaces are required to ensure vaccination of staff.