

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **American ‘Gods of Olympus’ Issue Orders for War and Destruction; BRICS Mobilize for Humanity**

May 20 (EIRNS)—There is mounting evidence of the truth of Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s warning that we are living in the moment of the “greatest danger in human history.” The world is clearly divided into two diametrically opposed forces. They can be described in various ways: The Anglo-American oligarchs, trying to save a bankrupt financial system which is wallowing in a swamp of unpayable debt of approximately \$2 quadrillion, like to refer to the divide as “the democracies vs the autocracies.” Helga Zepp-LaRouche recently noted that it actually lines up

as the former colonial masters vs their former colonies, although Russia is in neither category. A meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers on Thursday May 19 posed it somewhat differently: The U.S. does not represent the interests of the developing nations, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the meeting, “but the BRICS speaks for a large number of developing countries, representing 40% of the world’s population and 20% of global GDP. It is therefore well situated to represent the interests of emerging economies.” Demonstrating this was the attendance at the associated meeting of the “BRICS PLUS” of Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Thailand.

In this light, it is worth repeating for the benefit of the dying breed of Western oligarchs, ranting about their “rules-based order,” that not a single country of the Global South has supported the Anglo-American sanctions regime against Russia. Those supporting them include only the English-speaking union of the “Five Eyes,” their assets in Europe, and, in Asia, only South Korea, Japan and Singapore—i.e., no African nations, no Ibero-American nations, and only the three named Asian countries. The Global South is far more interested in the development orientation of the Belt and Road Initiative than in the insane drive for global war by the trans-Atlantic cartel.

This cartel still believes that these would-be Gods of Olympus rule over the human *Untermenschen*, who must respond to their every command and accept their words as Truth. Speaking at a UN Security Council meeting this week on the global food crisis, Secretary of State Tony Blinken spoke for these fake gods, perhaps not noticing that Mount Olympus is crumbling under his feet. Blinken blamed every problem in the world on Russia, Russia, Russia, who, he says, is starving the world, using starvation as a tool of war on humanity, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, blocking the Ukraine ports, and on and on.

However, the Russian Ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia responded with a strong dose of reality, and with the necessary irony. Nebenzia called Blinken’s accusations “absolutely deceitful.” In fact, he

argued, the U.S. determination to “break the backbone” of the Russian economy through sanctions and the proxy war in Ukraine reveals only “this obsessive desire of yours to shoot yourselves in the leg—or rather both legs,” destroying the Western economies at an escalating rate, “which you will have to explain to your taxpayers and voters.” He added: “You are literally holding the whole developing world as hostage, driving it towards famine. Whatever you may be saying, it is you and only you who can change this.”

The Ambassador notes that Russia, subjected to 10,000 sanctions, nonetheless will have a record wheat crop—25 million tons available for export beginning on Aug. 1 through the end of the year through the Novorossiysk port, with potential fertilizer exports of 22 million tons. “But if you don’t want to lift your sanctions of choice, why do you blame us for the food crisis? Why must the poorest countries and regions suffer from those irresponsible geopolitical games of yours?”

The Schiller Institute is holding two international meetings next week to address the madness of the provocations of Russia and China by “Global NATO,” threatening a near-term nuclear confrontation which could annihilate the human race. The Swedish and Danish chapters of the Schiller Institute will sponsor an event titled “We Need a New Security and Development Architecture for All Nations, Not a Strengthening of Geopolitical Blocs” on Wednesday May 25, and on Thursday May 26 Col. Richard Black, former CIA analyst Ray McGovern, Helga Zepp-LaRouche and one or more European retired generals will speak: “U.S. and European Military and Security Experts Warn: The Insanity of Politicians Threatens Nuclear War.”

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday May 20, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

**STRATEGIC WAR DANGER****Die Linke's Wagenknecht Attacks Gen. Austin, U.S. Strategy To Ruin Russia**

May 20 (EIRNS)—On the Markus Lanz television show in Germany last night, Left Party (Die Linke) MP Sahra Wagenknecht insisted that her criticism of the Western strategy on Ukraine is justified. The recent statement by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin that he wanted to weaken Russia to the maximum would suggest that Britain and the U.S. were aiming for a long war instead of negotiations, Wagenknecht said. “If you want to weaken Russia to the maximum, you don’t want a compromise.”

Wagenknecht evaded a direct answer on the Finland issue, pointing instead to the U.S. dislike of non-alignment and an incident between the U.S. and the Solomon Islands nation: “When the U.S. threatens a small group of islands in the South Pacific with war because they want to enter into a military alliance with China, it shows that the U.S. obviously defines its sphere of influence even much larger than Russia.”

Wagenknecht also remained controversial on the Bucha massacre issue: “Bucha is not a reason to break off negotiations, but a reason more to do everything to ensure that this war ends quickly, that there is a ceasefire, and that one then tries to solve the disputed issues.” She said that the negotiations between Russia and Ukraine that took place in Istanbul at the end of March went “amazingly far,” and even “close to a ceasefire.” However, allegations of Russian atrocities in Bucha (which Russia rebuffed) was then “taken as a reason to break off the negotiations,” which Wagenknecht found “frankly incomprehensible.” Wagenknecht admitted that Bucha was an expression of “how terrible this war is and how the civilian population is suffering.” Nevertheless, there is evidence that war crimes were also committed in Afghanistan and Iraq—under the U.S. leadership, she added.

## At UN Security Council on Food Security, Blinken Raves That 'Russia Is Starving the World'

May 20 (EIRNS)—Speaking May 18 as the chair of the UN Security Council’s Ministerial on Food Security, Secretary of State [Tony Blinken](#) delivered a wild diatribe against Russia, holding it responsible for the entire world’s food insecurity crisis and charging it with using starvation of civilians as a tool of war, a violation of UNSC Resolution 2417. This, he intoned, may in fact be a war crime. He then ran through a litany of Russia’s alleged crimes, including everything from blocking ports, “trapping Ukrainian agricultural exports, jeopardizing global food supplies,” and cutting off commercial naval traffic in and around the port of Odessa. Russia’s worst crime, as he described it, appears to be “violating the rules-based international order.”

Blinken charged that Russian forces have destroyed civilian infrastructure critical to the production and transport of food—water, power, rail lines, and grain storage facilities—“stealing stocks of food” in the regions it occupies, etc. Moreover, he insisted that 20 million tons of Ukrainian grain sits “unused in Ukrainian silos as global food supplies dwindle” and prices skyrocket, causing food insecurity to worsen around the world. Reports from Russia that Ukraine is actually emptying its silos and shipping grain out to Europe as payment for weapons would seem to belie that claim. It is instructive too that even a publication as unsavory as the City of London’s *The Economist* had to admit in this week’s edition that it’s the Ukrainians who’ve mined their ports’ waters, trapping dozens of ships there.

Because illegal and coercive U.S. and Western sanctions on Russia have boomeranged to contribute directly to the global food insecurity crisis, Blinken felt compelled to preemptively absolve the West and its sanctions rampage from any responsibility in this matter. Sanctions don’t prevent Russia from exporting food and fertilizer, he screeched, insisting that there are sanctions’ exemptions “for food, for fertilizer and seeds from Russia, and we’re working with countries every day to ensure that they understand that sanctions do not prevent the flow of these items.” The U.S. has clean

hands, he pontificated. It's Moscow's decision "to weaponize food," and thus, it's incumbent on UNSC members, he said, to demand that Russia stop these actions that make the Ukrainian and global food crisis worse.

### **Russian UN Ambassador Warns How Developing World Is Held Hostage to Western Sanctions Policy**

May 20 (EIRNS)—[Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia](#), Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, forcefully responded to Secretary of State Tony Blinken's unhinged attack on Russia during the May 18 UN Security Council's Ministerial on global food security. The reality, he said, is that the U.S. and the West are holding the developing world hostage with their insane sanctions policy which is causing mass hunger.

The Russian ambassador labeled as "absolutely deceitful" Blinken's claim that Russia seeks to "starve everyone to death, while all you and Ukrainians care about is saving lives of those who are starving." The reality, he argued, is that the U.S. and Western determination to "break the backbone" of the Russian economy through sanctions, with the resulting consequences for their own economies "which you will have to explain to your taxpayers and voters," reveals only "this obsessive desire of yours to shoot yourselves in the leg, or rather both legs." By carrying out a proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, and trying to isolate it, he warned, "you are literally holding the whole developing world hostage, driving it towards famine. Whatever you may be saying, it is you and only you who can change this."

Nebenzia ripped apart Blinken's false assertions about Russia as the sole cause of the global food crisis, pointing to such factors as the COVID pandemic, interruptions in supply chains, growing freight and insurance charges and the "steep increase of anti-crisis financial injections into the economy." Also important, he added, "is the leap over to green energy that is being imposed on the entire world instead of a thoroughly considered smooth energy transition, to say nothing of straight-up politicizing of energy cooperation by some states."

Citing facts and figures to show that Ukraine is blocking ports, Nebenzia detailed what illegal sanctions—10,000 alone imposed on Russia—have done to Russian exports of agricultural products and fertilizers. This year, he reported, Russia expects to have a record wheat crop of 25 million tons available for export beginning on Aug. 1 through the end of the year through the Novorossiysk port. From June to December, the potential for fertilizer exports is 22 million tons.

“But if you don’t want to lift your sanctions of choice, why do you blame us for the food crisis? Why must the poorest countries and regions suffer from those irresponsible geopolitical games of yours?” Agricultural products and fertilizer from Russia and Belarus could play a very positive role in the current situation, he said, yet illegal sanctions will make it difficult for these to be delivered.

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### Producer Prices in Germany at +34%!

May 20 (EIRNS)—Producer prices in Germany are at +34% on a year-to-year basis, three points higher than the already historical record of last month. This will automatically spill over into consumer prices, where food prices are already 17% higher than last year, the German Statistics Bureau reported.

Meanwhile, the U.K. is witnessing the highest inflation rate among G7 members, with 9%. Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said he fears double-digit inflation rate soon and apologized for his “apocalyptic” tones, according to Deutsche Welle.

Compare the inaction of governments today with the reaction of governments after the 1973-74 oil shock. At that time, governments saw inflation coming and introduced protective measures for household incomes, such as cost-of-living escalators. These systems were lifted during the 1980-90’s liberalization. Now, Western governments have seen the inflation wave coming, but have done nothing to protect the population.

## NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

### BRICS Foreign Ministers Speak Out for Needs of the Global South

May 20 (EIRNS)—On the evening of May 19, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister [Wang Yi](#) hosted the other Foreign Ministers of the BRICS nations—Carlos Franca of Brazil, Sergey Lavrov of Russia, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar of India, and Naledi Pandor of South Africa—met virtually to address the pressing needs of their nations as representative of the developing nations of the Global South. As currently constituted, the BRICS represent 40% of the world’s population and 20% of global GDP.

But a separate session of the “BRICS Plus” grouping, including representatives from Central Asia, Southwest Asia, Africa, Asia and Ibero-America, signals that the BRICS’ leaders envision an expanded and even more representative grouping. Foreign ministers of Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, the U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Thailand participated in this group, and thanked China for initiating the “BRICS Plus” dialogue, noting that it will help foster cooperation and coordination among emerging markets and developing nations in a very challenging international situation.

In his address to the BRICS members, Chinese President Xi Jinping identified priority themes for what he said was a time of great “turbulence and transformation,” requiring a strengthening of cooperation and solidarity and a focus on international peace and development. He particularly emphasized the need to seek “common security” in the world through his Global Security Initiative. “Seeking one’s own security at the expense of others will only create new tensions and risks,” he warned, so it is crucial for the BRICS to strengthen political and mutual trust and security cooperation, and to communicate and coordinate on major regional and international issues. Bloc confrontation, Cold War mentality and power politics should be rejected in favor of building a global community of “security for all,” he underscored.

As chair of the meeting, Wang Yi called on members to resist any moves intended to divide the world, emphasizing China’s role in promoting

peace talks in the Ukrainian conflict. Providing more weapons to Ukraine won't advance the cause of peace, he said; nor will sanctions resolve Europe's security dilemma. The international community must work together to bring about peace and not throw fuel on the fire. He made the point that the United States doesn't speak for the majority of the world, but the BRICS do speak for a large number of developing countries.

One point that Wang made was also included in the 24-point [Joint Statement](#) issued at the end of the meeting: True multilateralism must be upheld to guarantee the survival of developing nations. Thus, there must be a global governance system that best reflects the legitimate concerns of most countries, especially developing nations. Wang insisted there must be a sustained focus on development as well, pointing to the importance of Xi's Global Development Initiative. The Joint Statement also stresses that international law must be upheld, including "the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations ... and to the central role of the United Nations in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain peace and security."

### **Galbraith Writes, China Violates the 'Rules-Based' Neoliberal Order, but So Did the 'American System'**

May 20 (EIRNS)—On May 5, the Delphi Democracy Press is one of a number of publications that has published an adapted version of a long article by [James K. Galbraith](#), titled, "The Dollar in a Multi-Polar World," that will be published in a special issue of the *International Journal of Political Economy*. Galbraith writes:

The "rise" of China is an uncontested fact. As such it poses a lethal threat to neoliberal ideology, even though the Chinese themselves have made little effort to brand their experience and none whatever to export it as a competing economic model. China simply is, and as such it poses an interpretive challenge that neoliberalism cannot handle.

Consider the options. According to one, once popular but somewhat fading in recent years, China has made a successful "transition to capitalism" and owes its success to having applied the principles of the free

market. But if that were the case, how can the West complain? It is unsportsmanlike to kvetch if bested at one's own game.

A fall-back is to assert that while China has indeed played the capitalist game, it has gained an unfair advantage by bending “the rules”—for instance by appropriating “intellectual property,” manipulating the RMB, or running a low-wage industrial system. But this claim merely exposes the rules for what they are: an effort to preserve the monopolies and privileges of the already-rich. Such rules have been broken by every rising power going back to the 17th century at least; in the 19th century the practice of systematic violation of “the rules” even had a name: “The American System”.

The third option, taken up avidly by voices as disparate as Mike Pompeo and Robert Kuttner, is to slime China as a “totalitarian” state, an aggressive economic power, ruthlessly driven forward by its Communist Party. But this solution amounts to conceding the superiority of communism and the inferiority of capitalism and of democracy in the economic sphere. It thus completely negates the triumphalist posing that gave neoliberalism its legitimacy 40 years ago.

The China that one sees with trained but unfiltered eyes does not so easily fit into these simple boxes. It has the following key characteristics:

- it is a very large, administratively decentralized, internally-integrated economy, regaining in these respects attributes that were already familiar to Adam Smith;
- it has a plethora of organizational forms—public, private, joint venture, state, provincial, municipal, township and village.
- These are financed by a state-owned banking system that provides elastic support to activity in the interest of maintaining social stability, a paramount goal, and that has a large portfolio of non-performing loans to show for it.
- The state at various levels enjoys substantial control of the land, hence has the capacity to earn land rent, and is capable of spurring and directing

major investment projects, in urban construction, water management, electrical power and mass transportation, including roads, air travel and most recently high-speed rail.

- The larger economy is capable of absorbing technologies from the West as well as of creating its own, and of meeting the standards of Western markets, thus having solved the consumer goods quality-control problem of historical socialism; and, finally,

- China remains somewhat insulated from the predations of international finance by a large foreign currency reserve and the continued application of capital controls.

The Chinese model has succeeded, by trial and error, over a bit less than 50 years, in eliminating mass poverty, in creating an urban world that is largely secure, with an educated, healthy population. In 2020 it succeeded in mobilizing that population to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic—so far, anyway—as no Western society, except New Zealand, was able to do. It now offers its engineering services as an export to the developing world on favorable financial terms and with no ideological or diplomatic baggage. It has no need of advertising this; the success of the model and the appeal of the offerings speak for themselves. For this reason, the public-relations counteroffensive from the West focused on flaws and allegations both real and imaginary, is necessarily intense....

## COVID & FAMINE

### ‘Is a Perfect Storm Hitting Global Food Supply?’

May 20 (EIRNS)—That is the title of a May 17 feature in *Brussels Report* by Editor-in-Chief Pieter Cleppe, who also translated the article for *Contrepoints*, under the headline “La Plus Grande Crise Alimentaire de l’Histoire Arrive” on May 19. “The damage Russia’s invasion [sic] of Ukraine has caused to global food supply chains appears to be even greater than feared,” he writes. “There are estimates that Ukraine’s agricultural production that is destined for the world market would be halved. The

global shortage of fertilizers, also exacerbated by the war, threatens to reduce harvests. Combined with drought, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) therefore now warns that 'Targeted humanitarian action is urgently needed to save lives and livelihoods in the 20 hunger hotspots' it has identified."

"In addition, India has now decided to suspend the export of wheat indefinitely. This is to 'ensure domestic food security,' although loopholes would remain for some countries. This is also the result of a heat wave in India that would result in the loss of more than 15% of the harvest. This while only a few weeks ago, countries like India were counted on to alleviate the global food shortage."

After having cited him in the previous paragraph, Cleppe quotes Javier Blas, a Bloomberg energy and commodities columnist, who says: "My biggest concern is the copycat effect of India's wheat export ban. Not just in wheat (and corn), but crucially in rice. If rice exporters panic (and there's not reason thanks to a record expected harvest) and follow suit, it's game over for global food security."

He also quotes, Abdolreza Abbassian, former head of agro-markets at FAO, warning, "The real danger is the 2022-2023 season, and it will bring down governments." In addition, Cleppe reports that China is also hoarding more crops than usual, there have been export restrictions on Argentinean beef and Russian fertilizer, and countries such as Kazakhstan and Serbia already imposed similar restrictions before Feb. 24. "Another important development is Indonesia's decision to stop exporting palm oil, a crucial ingredient of the global food chain. The EU has been planning to impose far-reaching new restrictions on the import of palm oil. The motivation for this is to counter 'deforestation.' "

"However," writes Cleppe, "the EU's approach is questionable. 84% of the world's palm oil production takes place in Indonesia and Malaysia." He cites the World Resources Institute, as having "recently specifically identified Indonesia and Malaysia as 'bright spots of hope for forests.' Deforestation is obviously a problem, but according to the FAO,

deforestation in Asia is not as problematic as in Africa and South America.” From the ecological standpoint, it should be underlined that “palm oil has a particularly high yield, compared to the alternatives. A study published by *Nature*, for example, makes it clear that to keep pace with global demand, an expansion of palm oil production by only 36 million hectares of additional land would be needed, compared to 204 million hectares for soybeans. In other words, a rethink of the EU’s approach seems to be in order.”

What can be done? asks Cleppe, and he means “immediately. One key step must be to avoid burdening our farmers with even more patronizing behavior. In this sense, it is good that the—Green—German Minister of Agriculture is asking the European Commission to postpone new regulations on crop rotation,” that is, increasing the share of land set-asides from farming in the name of protecting “biodiversity,” concludes Cleppe.

Such set-aside programs as the “30 by 30” program as Joe Biden wants, to set aside 30% of U.S. land and water by 2030 from *all* human use, is what kills millions.