

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Zepp-LaRouche on Building an International Peace Coalition

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—In her June 21 weekly online Live Dialogue, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche made the following opening remarks:

It's a quickly developing world, indeed. First of all, the visit of Secretary of State Blinken in China seemed to go well. At least he met with the Chinese Foreign Minister, then he met with President Xi Jinping for half an hour, who afterwards said the meeting was productive. Now, unfortunately, I think even before Blinken left China, President Biden, in a private fundraising dinner, called Xi Jinping a "dictator." And that has caused a very angry reaction by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and their spokeswoman Mao Ning called it an absolutely unacceptable provocation.

The Chinese have said repeatedly that what Western leaders say doesn't mean much. And then when Blinken says one thing, but then President Biden says something like that, it puts the whole thing into question again. I think this is really a problem!

You have at the same time, the Chinese delegation with Prime Minister Li Qiang, in both Germany, and then tomorrow going to France, for an inter-government dialogue, which according to the preliminary reports we have here from Germany was not bad, and that was mainly due to the composition of the delegation, where on the German side, Foreign Minister Baerbock and Defense Minister Pistorius did not participate. So, let's say, there is a stronger impulse and a statement by German industry right now that it is totally against their interest to "de-risk" with China, which in any case is just some other word for decoupling.

The reports coming from Ukraine are that the so-called Ukrainian offensive did not really go well, which poses the question very seriously of bringing this horrible war to an end, which is just costing more human lives.

And in that context, I must say that the statement which was put out, even before his speech in New Hampshire by presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., where he again quoted the statement of the former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who said that the (Ukraine- Russia) peace talks were actually on the verge of succeeding in March 2022, and that it was then the intervention of especially the British Boris Johnson who ruined that, because Johnson gave the message to Zelenskyy that NATO

insists that the war go on. And then Kennedy said that he demands that Biden makes two apologies: one to the American people because he has led the U.S. army de facto into a terrible war which is totally against the interests of the American people; and secondly, more importantly to the Ukrainian people, because it is destroying their country.

I think this is very important. I did not have time to read the Kennedy speech which he gave yesterday—I just saw some notes about it: He is calling for the U.S. to return to the peace policy of John Kennedy. I mean, this is essentially what we had put out in an [appeal to the next President of the United States](#) to do exactly that. We have started to collect many signatures from around the world on that statement, because lots of people in the whole world want the United States to become a power of peace, again.

So, I think this is very encouraging. Because you have Trump, who absolutely found some harsh words on the war policy, who will be a candidate no matter what the legal prosecution of Trump will be. So you will have in all likelihood, Trump on the Republican side, and in all likelihood Kennedy on the Democratic side, which means that there will be, for the first time in a very long time, a real election campaign in the United States.

Now, I have been warning Americans against falling into an election mania, because, as George Washington said when he left office, people should not fall into the trap of political parties, because parties tend to be interest representatives, and therefore not the national interest. And especially because the main decisions about where the world will go, war or peace, financial collapse or a new paradigm of a new economic system, these decisions in all likelihood will be made long before November 5, 2024, and therefore, it is important to keep an international focus on where the world is moving. So, I think this is a very interesting environment, where options do exist.

The danger of war remains extremely high. Not only did Russia now put tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, but there are reports that the U.S. is

talking about putting tactical nuclear weapons into Romania and Poland. The Russians have answered very strongly against that, because that's the places where the American missile defense systems have been installed, and it's very clear that they can be transformed from defensive into offensive systems in an extremely short period of time.

I can only say, the war danger is not less, it's growing, and this is why our International Peace Coalition efforts are so *extremely* important. We had the second, very successful discussion—more people, more forces are joining. And I think that that is definitely an answer we have to have against this growing war danger.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Thursday June 22, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Nuclear War Debate Grows in Russia and the West

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—The June 13 article by Russian professor [Sergey Karaganov](#) which calls for Russia to launch a tactical nuclear strike against one or various European countries, and which was run in *Russia in Global Affairs* and reprinted on June 17 by [RT](#) and [Asia Times](#), has unleashed a series of responses both within Russia and in the West. For example, *Russia Matters*, the publication of The Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, has published their latest "[Russia Analytical Report, June 12-20, 2023](#)," noting in their "4 Ideas to Explore" item that a "debate has reemerged among some of Russia's best-known foreign and defense policy pundits on whether Moscow should initiate use of nuclear weapons to dissuade the West from providing further support to Ukraine."

President Joe Biden weighed in on the matter, telling a group of donors in California on June 19 that “I worry about Putin using tactical nuclear weapons. It’s real.”

Dmitri Trenin, a research professor at the Higher School of Economics and a lead research fellow at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, as well as a member of the Russian International Affairs Council, wrote in RT yesterday that “domestically, a public debate has started over the possibility of a first use of nuclear weapons against NATO in the context of the ongoing proxy war in Ukraine.” Trenin accurately reported that “Putin’s answer brought no surprises. In summary: nuclear weapons remain in the toolbox of Moscow’s strategy, and there is a doctrine that stipulates conditions for their use. Should the existence of the Russian state be threatened, they will be used. However, there is no need to resort to such instruments currently.”

Trenin added that “the U.S. strategy vis-à-vis Russia in Ukraine has been that of pushing the envelope farther and farther, by upgrading step by step its military support for Ukraine and probing Russian reaction to each stage of escalation. So far, it seems for Washington, so good. Beyond a certain point, however, such practice may turn this calculated strategy into Russian roulette. The proposed arrival of the F-16s and the potential delivery of longer-range missiles would bring the situation closer to that point. Hence, Putin’s confirmation that the nuclear option, while unnecessary at this stage, is not off the table. Indeed, no nuclear power would likely agree to be defeated by another without exercising the ultimate option.”

As Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov recently explained, the F-16s that the West plans to ship to Ukraine are capable of carrying B61 gravity nuclear bombs, and if they are deployed “a military-technical response will follow.” President Vladimir Putin said at the SPIEF plenary that if those F-16s are flown in battle against Russia in Ukraine, and are based outside the country (for example in Poland or Romania), “we will have to think about how and where we can hit the resources that are used

against us in the hostilities. There is a serious danger of NATO's further involvement in this armed conflict.”

Western ‘Experts’ Insist: Putin Is Bluffing, and Russia Must Be Defeated

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Bloomberg today ran a lengthy op-ed by “Russia expert” Leonid Bershidsky headlined “[Putin’s Nuclear Scare Tactics Will Fall Flat](#).” His analysis is that the Karaganov article was part of a calculated Russian ploy. “The game being played here is, of course, a time-tested good cop/bad cop one. Vladimir Putin, who used his state-of-the-nation address in 2018 to threaten the U.S. with Russia’s new hypersonic weapons, now has taken on the good-cop part.”

Bershidsky confidently asserts that Putin is bluffing, and that the only real red line is if Russia’s “internationally recognized territory” is massively invaded—i.e., Crimea and the Donbass are fair game. “The Russian response to previous weapon supply escalations has been consistently underwhelming: Russia simply adapted to losing one trump card after another. This has emboldened the U.K. to arm Ukraine with longer-range Storm Shadow missiles, which Russia struggles to shoot down, and a coalition of eight European countries plus the U.S. to start active preparations, including pilot training, for the handover of F-16 fighter aircraft....

“No nukes will fly until Russia faces an existential threat, such as a massive invasion of its internationally recognized territory. No matter what the Kremlin and its various messengers may say, Ukraine’s efforts to liberate its own territory do not represent such a threat, not even to Putin.”

More pompous, but no less psychotic, is the Kissingerian argument published as an op-ed in the *Financial Times* by Rose Gottemoeller, a former high-level State Department official and chief U.S. negotiator on New START, as well as former deputy secretary-general of NATO. “[The West Must Act Now To Break Russia’s Nuclear Fever](#),” she writes. “Putin’s threats are a symptom of a wider anxiety that the U.S. and NATO

are bent on Russian dismemberment ... [and seeks] Russia's full and complete destruction as a nation state. This logic is ridiculous.”

For Gottemoeller, the silly, paranoid Russians need to be reassured that nothing of the sort is in store for them—after they are defeated in Ukraine. “Russia of course has national interests.... As a first order of business, we can clarify that strategic defeat of Russia does not mean its dismemberment, but it does mean its exit from Ukraine, its willingness to atone for the invasion and the horrors that followed, and its readiness to repair the massive war damage. In those circumstances, we can cooperate with Russia to advance its interests.”

She patronizingly adds: “While Russia's interests cannot come at the cost of any other country, we can acknowledge that they are valid. Making that clear may help break the nuclear fever: it is to everyone's benefit that we make that happen.”

***Foreign Policy* Bemoans China's Problems Are Explained by Its Friendship with Helga Zepp-LaRouche**

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a truly disgusting article in the June 20 issue of the war party's *Foreign Policy* journal (owned by the *Washington Post*), titled “[Why China's Economy Hasn't Bounced Back](#),” Deputy Editor James Palmer retails many common lies about China in an effort to portray the Chinese economy as being in free fall, ultimately blaming the dictatorial policies of President Xi Jinping—and on China's friendship with Helga Zepp-LaRouche!

As Zepp-LaRouche noted today, the timing of the publication of this insanity is no coincidence. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken was just in Beijing, and Chinese Premier Li Qiang is in Germany, and in both cases the Anglo-American “de-risking” campaign to subvert the Chinese economy was front and center on the agenda. It was at that moment that *Global Times* on June 19 posted an interview with Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, titled: “‘De-risking’ with China Is Manipulative, Illustrating West's Geopolitical Move To Contain China: Schiller Institute Founder.”

Palmer first blames China’s economic slowdown on Xi’s policies, labeling him the “Chairman of everything” in China. His crackdown on the massive “private education business” and on video games has driven hundreds of companies out of business (almost as bad as Afghanistan shutting down the opium business!), whines Palmer. The video game crackdown was due (says Palmer) to President Xi’s concern that they were “weakening teens’ masculinity!”

Particularly concerning is the Li Qiang visit to Germany, where (says Palmer) he “hopes to turn Germany’s business sector against U.S. efforts to contain China (or ‘de-risking,’ as Blinken now puts it), which shouldn’t be that hard. But as ever, China’s grasp of Western politics may not be that strong, as shown by the *Global Times* trotting out Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the widow of conspiracy theorist Lyndon LaRouche and head of the fringe LaRouche movement today, as an expert on Germany.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Robert Kennedy, Jr. in New Hampshire, ‘I Call on Every American To Join a New Peace Movement’

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—Democratic presidential candidate [Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.](#) delivered a major foreign policy speech last night to an overflow crowd of 700 people on the campus of St. Anselm College in Goffstown, New Hampshire. He used as a touchstone for his address the historic Peace Speech delivered 60 years ago by his uncle, [President John F. Kennedy](#), on June 10, 1963 at American University in Washington, D.C., quoting from it directly on numerous occasions.

Because of its importance in reshaping the political landscape in the United States on fundamental policy issues facing the nation well before the 2024 presidential election, we provide important excerpts below, taken from coverage in the *New Hampshire Union Leader* and the *New Hampshire Journal*. This is all the more necessary since the content of RFK Jr.’s speech has been largely blacked out of the mainstream media so far.

“I call on every American to join a new peace movement, to make your voices heard ... to celebrate no longer a wartime president but a president who keeps the peace....”

“When you see humans as fundamentally selfish and nations as fundamentally evil then all you have available to change their behavior are threats and bribes. Peace comes from a different place....”

“War is inevitable only if we make it inevitable.... The war in Ukraine could have been avoided even, we now know, as late as the spring of 2022....”

“Maybe Russia won’t respond, maybe they won’t respond in kind or in any way, but at least we will have known we tried.... Can’t Biden meet with Putin? Can’t we at least begin a conversation....”

“We have institutionalized a reflex of violence as the response to any and all crises. Everything becomes a war, war on drugs, war on terror, war on climate change. None of this has made us safer....”

“I abhor Russia’s brutal and bloody invasion of that nation. But we must understand that our government has also contributed to its circumstances with repeated, deliberate provocations of Russia going back to the 1990s.

“Democratic and Republican administrations have pushed NATO to Russia’s borders, violated our own solemn promise in the early nineties when we pledged that if Russia made this terrible concession of moving 400,000 troops out of East Germany and allowing the unification of Germany under a possible NATO army. And we would commit that after that not move NATO one inch to the East....

“Instead, we have moved it—not one inch, but a thousand miles and 14 nations. We have surrounded Russia with missiles and military bases, something that we would never tolerate if the Russians did that to us....

“Today, America has broken off practically all diplomatic contact with Russia, so the communication has indeed become a little more than an exchange of threats and insults. FDR met with Stalin. JFK met with

Khrushchev. Nixon met with Brezhnev. Reagan met with Gorbachev. Can't Biden meet with Putin?"

Biden Dubs Xi a Dictator, While Blinken Still Had One Foot in Beijing

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken had just made an effort to set U.S.-China relations on a more even keel, at least on the crucial issue of Taiwan, when President Joe Biden pretty much spoiled the entire effort yesterday by calling Chinese President Xi Jinping a “dictator.” Promptly, Chinese official sources called the remark “extremely absurd” and “an open political provocation,” and were left with the question of whether words from Washington will be matched by deeds.

“The reason why Xi Jinping got very upset in terms of when I shot that balloon down with two box cars full of spy equipment in it, was he didn't know it was there,” Biden said at a fundraiser in California according to Reuters. “That's a great embarrassment for dictators. When they didn't know what happened. That wasn't supposed to be going where it was. It was blown off course,” Biden added.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said Biden's remarks were “extremely absurd” and “irresponsible.” They seriously violated facts, diplomatic protocol and China's political dignity. “They're an open political provocation,” she told reporters today.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Lula in Rome Argues, 'There Is No Military Solution' to Ukrainian Conflict

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—Brazilian President Lula is in Rome, where he met Pope Francis, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and State President Sergio Mattarella. He will also meet old friends from the left and trade union camp. His meeting with the Pope lasted 45 minutes. In an interview with *Corriere della Sera* before the meeting he said about Pope Francis:

“In 2020, when I met him, we talked about inequality in the world and a more inclusive economy. Right after that came the pandemic and the election campaign in Brazil. Now I meet the Pope with a conflict in Europe that affects everyone. I sent a special envoy, Celso Amorim, to Moscow and Kiev. Both countries believe they can win militarily; I disagree. I think there are too few people talking about peace. My anguish is that with so many people going hungry in the world, with so many children without food, instead of dealing with how to solve inequalities we are dealing with war. It is urgent that Russia and Ukraine find a common path to peace.”

The interviewer asked him about Brazil’s relationships with China, an allegedly “non-democratic” country.

“Brazil has no problems with any country in the world, and we have a very good relationship with China, which has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in recent decades and contributed a lot to the world economy. My dialogue with China has always been positive and in the direction of greater peace, harmony, growth of trade and cooperation in the world. China is so important that even Italy has already joined the New Silk Road Initiative, which Brazil has not yet joined.”

Is the August 22-24 BRICS summit going to be a step towards a multipolar world? he was asked.

“The BRICS summit is important for everyone. This coalition of emerging economies demonstrated the importance of adding diverse voices to the global discussion. We believe that a multipolar world is better than unipolar supremacy or bipolar dispute. Creating different networks, different agreements between countries, can help balance and counterbalance conflicting trends and tensions. For example, the UN Security Council is a structure in need of reform. It represents the balance of power in the world in 1945. Almost 80 years later, much has changed and we need a broader and more representative Council, with voices from Latin America and Africa, to really contribute to peace and security.”

On his scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Meloni, he said: “I hope that today we will get to know each other better and that the meetings we

will have will strengthen the bond between our countries, which has always been strong. We are the country with the most Italians, second only to Italy itself. We have 30 million Italian descendants. They are on very good terms with your labor movement, with intellectuals, and with businesses. We will have very productive talks, because our economic relations are below their potential and we have to work hard to create a relationship that matches our economies.”

Addressing United Russia Party Event, Lavrov Restates Moscow’s Foreign Policy Priority as ‘the Greater Eurasian Partnership’

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—Addressing the United Russia Party General Council Commission on International Cooperation and Support for Compatriots Abroad, in his function as chairman, on June 19, Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) said: “Our flagship foreign policy project is to support the Greater Eurasian Partnership concept. We are talking about promoting the objective process for forming a broad-based integration circuit that is open to all countries and associations of our continent. Practical steps have already been taken,” Lavrov said. “Among them, aligning the EAEU development plans and China’s Belt and Road Initiative, expanding cooperation within the [Shanghai Cooperation Organization] SCO (including observers and partners) and strengthening Russia’s strategic partnership with ASEAN, and establishing working contacts between the executive bodies of the EAEU, the SCO, and ASEAN. We would like these efforts to lead us to establishing mutually beneficial infrastructural connectivity and creating a pan-continental architecture of peace, growth and cooperation in Greater Eurasia.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Bankers Warn of Coming Wave of U.S. ‘Junk Loan’ Defaults

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—Just because there haven’t been a lot of headlines recently about collapsing banks—like we had about Credit Suisse and Silicon Valley Bank back in March of this year—it doesn’t mean the trans-Atlantic financial system is not blowing out. For example, one important

part of the “everything bubble”—the \$1.4 trillion U.S. junk loan market—is seeing a sharp rise in defaults over the course of 2023 because of rising interest rates. And now Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has just announced that interest rates will continue to go: “Nearly all FOMC participants expect that it will be appropriate to raise interest rates somewhat further by the end of the year,” he said in remarks prepared for the House of Representatives’ Committee on Financial Services.

Junk loans are loans to “risky companies with ‘floating’ borrowing costs,” the *Financial Times* explained in a June 13 article, and this is “a market that is a critical source of financing for many companies.”

“Bank analysts and rating agencies expect defaults to rise further as market expectations shift to interest rates staying higher for longer and as the lagging effects of successive rate rises are felt,” the *FT* explained. “There were 18 debt defaults in the U.S. loan market between January 1 and the end of May totaling \$21 billion—greater in number and total value than for the whole of 2021 and 2022 combined, according to a Goldman Sachs analysis of data from PitchBook LCD.... The failures underscore the pressure being exerted on lowly rated companies with large debt piles as they bear the brunt of the U.S. central bank’s tighter monetary policy to curb high inflation.”

Part of the problem, the *FT* added, is that “many ‘junk’-rated companies loaded up on leveraged loans—debt with floating borrowing costs that move with prevailing interest rates—when the Fed slashed rates close to zero at the peak of the Covid crisis. Issuance nearly doubled between 2019 and 2021 to \$615 billion, data from PitchBook LCD shows.... ‘We are lining up here for a pretty meaningful default cycle,’ said Steve Caprio, head of European and U.S. credit strategy at Deutsche Bank.”

British Financial Authorities: Let Them Eat Mortgages

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt on June 20 said there would be no government help for people being slammed by the country’s soaring mortgage costs—which are rising stratospherically because of the steep climb of interest rates over the last

year. “Those kind of schemes, which involve injecting large amounts of cash into the economy, would be inflationary,” Hunt told the Parliament when asked about possible aid. “As much as we sympathize with the difficulties and do everything we can to help people seeing their mortgage costs go up, we won’t do anything that would mean we prolong inflation.”

The Sputnik article reporting on this policy statement was followed by an insightful reader commentary, including the following technically sound rejoinder:

“So helping people creates inflation because they keep telling the same fucking lies... printing money is bad to help people...but printing money for nazis...in UK-raine... that’s good... won’t create inflation... UK is fascist cesspool fiefdom with zero future...”

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Russia Declares the WWF ‘Undesirable’ for Undermining the Russian Economy

June 21, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Russian Prosecutor-General today declared the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), also known as the World Wildlife Fund, “undesirable,” reports RT, accusing it of using environmental and educational activities “as a cover for implementing projects that pose security threats in the economic sphere.”

Specifically, “under the pretext of preserving the environment, the WWF is carrying out activities aimed at preventing the implementation of [Russia’s] policies for the industrial development and exploration of natural resources in the Arctic territories, while developing and legitimizing restrictions that could serve as a basis for transferring the Northern Sea Route into the exclusive economic zone of the U.S.”

RT writes: “The NGO is especially targeting large enterprises engaged in the energy sector, the oil and gas industry, and also the mining of mineral deposits and precious metals, according to Russian officials. The Prosecutor-General’s Office in particular objected to the WWF’s use of the

ESG (Environmental/Social/Governance) scores to rate Russian companies, which are based solely on the ‘subjective standards and criteria developed by the WWF.’ ”

They add that the WWF has “provided material and other support for several Russian NGOs that have been included in the registry of foreign agents, such as ‘Friends of the Baltic’ and the ‘Sakhalin Environmental Watch.’ The Russian Ministry of Justice declared the WWF itself a foreign agent in March this year.”

Being declared undesirable is an effective ban on the organization, RT reports. “It must shut down its offices in Russia, and doing business with it is punishable with a fine or jail in case of repeat offenders. The first organization to be designated so was the U.S. Congress-funded National Endowment for Democracy (NED), in 2015. Another environmentalist NGO, Greenpeace, was declared unwelcome last month after allegations it had sought destabilization and change of government in Russia ‘through unconstitutional means.’ ”