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EDITORIAL

Operation Ibn Sina: The Crucial Weapon in the Present ‘Shooting War of Ideas’

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—Fast-moving changes in the international strategic situation require that we direct our attention to answering this essential question: How are ideas, such as “The Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites” intervention into the world health crisis, and “Operation Ibn Sina,” a military-strategic, as well as philosophical alternative to the lethal geopolitics of Southwest Asia, intended to transform the present, clearly failing complex of “credible policy options” in order to secure, not only durable human survival, but even unprecedented economic prosperity? In other words, is it true that under certain circumstances, an idea, representing a deeper, unseen, higher, “poetic” principle, can take the form of an effective policy, perhaps embraced by much, even all of humanity, such that imperfect people and leaders, “even whilst they deny and abjure, are yet compelled to serve, that power which is seated on the throne of their own soul?”

Three developments in the past 48 hours indicate the potential for great, profound, and lasting change. These developments also show that those operating from the “higher manifold” of creative reason, can not only out-think, but also out-flank, those who don’t.

First: the Russian rejection, accompanied by the “billion-people-plus” nations of India and China, of the United Nations Security Council resolution declaring that “climate change is a global security threat.” This counters the geopolitical policy thrust that has been in the works for years to substitute the slogan “climate change” for “resource scarcity,” the earlier argument of documents like “National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests.” Those three nations, representing 40% of the people on the planet, defended those that were too weak, beaten down, or divided to stand up for themselves.

Russia and China in particular are aware that “The 2019 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community” report was written after the sabotage of the panel that was to be chaired, at the request of President Donald Trump, by physicist William Happer, who was assigned to the National Security Council. The panel was intended to question the false scientific narrative concerning the “link” between carbon emissions and global warming. Trump had rejected the 2017 Threat Assessment, which had originally made the same claim, and had brought Happer into the administration in 2018. Before Happer’s committee could even meet, however, it was sabotaged—probably by the CIA, according to one source—and the review was never done.

The 2019 report concluded that climate change is man-made, and a significant threat to national security. On page 23, it states: “Global environmental and ecological degradation, as well as climate change, are likely to fuel competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent through 2019 and beyond.... Diminishing Arctic sea ice may increase competition—particularly with Russia and China—over access to sea routes and natural resources.” On page 24, one page later, under the title “Regional Threats: China and Russia,” it states: “China and Russia will present a wide variety of economic, political, counterintelligence, military, and diplomatic challenges to the United States and its allies. We anticipate that they will collaborate to counter U.S. objectives, taking advantage of rising doubts in some places about the liberal democratic model. “That was what was actually out-flanked by Russia, China, and, in a different way, India, in their action at the United Nations on Monday.

Second, the Atlantic Council on Dec. 13 published an Open Letter to President Biden entitled “Afghanistan Is About To Collapse. Here’s What the U.S. Must Do About It.” It was signed by 13 U.S. diplomats and military personnel, including Ryan Crocker, James Cunningham, James Dobbins, David Petraeus, and others. It includes the following passages:

“In addition to food and medicine, Afghanistan needs a stable medium of exchange and a functioning banking system to avoid experiencing

widespread economic and governance failure. Health professionals, teachers, and other essential workers need to be paid if the most basic functions of the state are to be maintained. Ordinary Afghans deserve access to their own funds, now frozen in banks wary of U.S. and international sanctions and the potential collapse of the Afghan financial system.”

Sounds positive, right? Then, “discussions are underway in Washington and elsewhere to *explore various means of stabilizing the Afghan currency and averting the collapse of the banking system without providing the Taliban with discretionary resources that could be used for nefarious purposes*. Good ideas for how to do so are available, including proposals by former U.S. ambassadors, USAID directors, and World Bank officials, among others. *Because any scheme along these lines will be very controversial, and no system of controls will be perfect, what is needed is the courage to act.*” [Emphasis added.]

Whenever you hear the phrase “courage to act” from these circles, who “act” everywhere in the world, all the time, often in your name, and without your permission, take heed, and proceed with caution. Those who have read *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* by John Perkins can recognize the thinking here. There is no necessary intention of stabilizing the nation of Afghanistan indicated here, actually—but there is, on the other side, another important, influential factor. “The longer decisions are postponed, the more difficult it will become to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe in the country and the deaths of many Afghans”—deaths which will be on the hands of the United States, NATO, and those that have refused “Operation Ibn Sina,” or any real emergency collaboration with the nations of the area. Operation Ibn Sina is such a collaboration, proposed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and involving Pakistan, the United States, China, and Russia, as well as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and all the nations surrounding Afghanistan. Such a collaboration, especially in light of the Putin-Biden discussions of the tensions occurring at the border of Ukraine and Russia; the military experience of both Russia and the United States in Afghanistan; and the possibility of collaborating with

“opposites” for the purpose of doing something good, for the benefit of the other, and members of another faith, particularly at the Christmas season, should be even more intensely pursued. Operation Ibn Sina, as “unlikely” as it might appear, is a war-winning strategy, against the real enemies—“poverty, famine, disease, and war itself.”

Third, evidence rigorously compiled in Denmark and Norway regarding the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, indicates that those with even two vaccinations are infected by it at very high rates. This poses the obvious question: what if Omicron were as deadly as the Delta virus, which it appears to not be? What would we do about it? Even without that, what is about to happen to the hospital systems of the world, which are about to be flooded with cases of Omicron—and perhaps, any day, a more lethal variant? The [Dr. Joycelyn Elders](#) call for a world dialogue and symposium to catalyze an emergency world economic platform, as impractical as it sounds, is the “canopy of victory” under which the world’s weakest and strongest, wealthiest and poorest, must meet, if we are to survive.

[Lyndon LaRouche](#) said in December 1985: “In a true republic, the true citizen is personally accountable to the Creator, for the outcome of that republic; for the outcome of the general welfare, as it affects all persons in that republic; for the outcome, thus, of every personal life in that republic, and the outcome of the role of that republic in the world; for the welfare of humanity as a whole, and of every individual personality, present and future, of humanity as a whole. The individual citizen of a republic is personally accountable to the Creator, to the extent that that individual either has the capacity to influence the course of events, or can develop the capacity needed to influence the course of events.” We may deny and abjure, but we may also serve the higher power of reason and beauty that, if we are fortunate, will, “even in our despite,” sit and preside upon the throne of our souls.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday December 15, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche](#)

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

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Russia Says ‘Nyet’ to Placing Security Concerns under the Climate Narrative

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—Russia vetoed a draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution linking climate change to security threats. The Russian Federation Mission to the UN tweeted: “In this draft resolution we see an attempt of some states to gain leverage in the #UNSC to impose a particular vision with regard to fulfillment of climate commitments and ultimately to initiate putting any country on the SC’s agenda under the #climate pretext.” Russia’s Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia explained in a statement issued before the vote: “We are opposed to establishing a new track of UNSC activities that asserts a generic automatic link between climate change and the international security, thus turning a scientific and socio-economic problem into a political issue.

Russia’s UN Mission statement after it vetoed the proposed resolution objected that the proposed document “was coercing the council to take a one-dimensional approach to conflicts and threats to international peace and security, i.e. through the climate lens.... As a responsible member of the United Nations and its Security Council, the Russian Federation along with India and China does not share such an approach imposed by the Western nations that have already made a significant number of countries expecting assistance believe in it.” The West had gathered over 100 nations in support of the resolution. “We recognize the range of complex and intertwined challenges, including the impact of climate change, natural disasters, poverty, poor local governance that is mostly rooted in the colonial past, and terrorism threats that are an intolerable burden for some countries and regions. All those situations have their own specific characteristics.” But the ones pushing the document were “without readiness to discuss the root

causes of the challenges” that the “vulnerable countries” are actually facing.

Senior Russian Diplomat Says Relations to U.S. Are Characterized by ‘One Sided Negative Predictability’

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—In a Dec. 13 interview with *Izvestia*, whose transcript is posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry website, Deputy Foreign Minister [Sergey Ryabkov](#) described Russian relations with the U.S. as characterized by “one-sided negative predictability.” This is the result, he said, of “the U.S. tendency, by and large, to deny Russia the role of a major independent player in international relations while trying to impose its own approaches to a whole range of issues, including how we should live in our own country.”

In Ryabkov’s view, the tension over Ukraine “is primarily Washington’s geopolitical project, an attempt to expand its sphere of influence by getting new instruments for strengthening its positions, which Washington hopes will eventually allow it to dominate this region,” he said. “It is also a way of creating problems for us by endangering our security. We have openly pointed out that there are red lines which we will not allow anyone to cross, and we also have certain requirements, which have been formulated exceedingly clearly.”

Later in the interview, Ryabkov called NATO expansion one of the biggest problems in the Euro-Atlantic region. “NATO’s unrestrained expansion over the past decades has shown that Western advances, promises, and commitments are of little value unless they are legally formalized. Soviet and later Russian leaders were told by responsible officials that NATO would not expand eastwards,” he said. “We see that the situation is diametrically opposite.”

“I would like to point out that the freedom to join alliances cannot be absolute,” Ryabkov went on in reference to NATO’s Open Door policy. “It is as it is in human societies, your freedom ends where the freedom of others begins. There must be clear boundaries and mutual obligations and responsibilities. This is why the phrase about the freedom to join alliances

is always balanced by the phrase that this must not be done at the expense of the security of other states.”

“NATO’s expansion has long come into a dramatic conflict with this principle,” Ryabkov said. “We will continue to tell our opponents, both NATO states and the non-members, which would like to join the alliance, that it is impossible to do both things simultaneously. Therefore, there should be no further expansion of NATO.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

January 6 Committee Prime Time Show: Liz Cheney Inherits Her Father’s Talent for Unabashed Lying

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—The “January 6” Committee’s true purpose for existing was on display last night. It is legal and proper for a congressional committee to investigate matters pertinent to contemplated legislation, but not to take the place of the judicial branch in setting out criminal cases, nor even to issuing subpoenas for the general purpose of “getting to the bottom of things” for Americans who “have a right to know.” Under the slender reed of contemplating legislation to improve the Capitol Hill police, the committee has taken on the costume of a show trial.

The committee convened a special evening session on Dec. 13, what CNN called a “made-for-TV special,” to advance the very rare contempt of Congress charges against former Congressman Mark Meadows. As vice chair Liz Cheney put it, Meadows had provided over 1,000 pages of material in an initial attempt to cooperate with the committee, before he found that he could no longer cooperate. She then provided the highlights for the show, reading from Donald Trump, Jr.’s text to Meadows, during the Capitol Hill riot: “He’s got to condemn this shit asap. We need an Oval office address.” She read a couple of other quotes—but, in reality, they were simply allies of Trump, properly upset that the rioters had undermined any attempt for a deliberative session in Congress over the votes. Cheney deliberately left out any time sequence, merely asserting that Trump ignored all messages to take action “for 187 minutes”! Apparently, Trump

had to allow his minions the time to destroy any attempt by Congress to examine the votes, so as to guarantee the victory for Biden.

No one interrupted her demagogy to state the obvious. In fact, Trump responded three times in the first two hours. Between 2:15 and 2:20, rioters broke into the Capitol and the session was adjourned. At 2:38, or 18-23 minutes later, Trump's first appeal goes out: "Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforcement. They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!" His second message is at 3:13 p.m.: "I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capitol to remain peaceful. No violence! Remember, WE are the Party of Law & Order—respect the Law and our great men and women in Blue. Thank you!" And at 4:17 p.m., he tweets a one-minute video ending with, "Go home." That is three different attempts within two hours—and not "no attempts in over three hours."

Curiously, Cheney's "187 minutes"—even assuming that she only credits Trump's third action—means that she starts the clock no later than 1:10 p.m.; that is, when there is a massive peaceful rally, and over an hour before provocateurs and rioters get into action. Evidently, Trump's crime is that he didn't stop any rally in front of the Capitol.

U.S. Household Wealth Rising for a Few, Dropping for Many

Dec. 13 (EIRNS)—The latest, Dec. 9, Federal Reserve Flow of Funds ("[Financial Accounts of the United States](#)") report shows that total household wealth in the United States has been rising rapidly in the past two years, reaching a record \$142 trillion after jumping by 4.3% just in the second quarter of 2021. It is up \$31 trillion—more than 30%—just in the year to June 2021, thanks to immense Federal Reserve and Treasury money issuance, marking the COVID pandemic as the greatest transfer of wealth in U.S. history.

The breakdown by wealth ranking of households offers an entirely different picture, however. The household wealth of the lower half of U.S. households has remained essentially unchanged for 15 years, going from \$20 trillion in 2006 to \$22 trillion now; that growth is roughly equal to the increase in the simple number of households within that lower half—so,

inflation has actually lowered the household wealth for half of all Americans. During those 15 years, the wealth of the top 1% of households has risen from \$17.9 trillion to \$41.5 trillion, almost double the total wealth of the lower 50%.

Tornado Disaster Leaves Kentuckians No Electricity, Heat, or Water, as Media Report Deaths from Reckless Treatment

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—In Kentucky, as of today, more than 100 souls were still missing from the tornado disaster that ripped through the southwest of the state overnight on Dec. 10-11. So far, 74 people had been found dead, along with another 14 in Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee. Officials in Kentucky are warning that electricity, heating, and water outages will continue for weeks, and possibly months.

In Mayfield, Kentucky, eight employees of the Mayfield Consumer Products candle factory died when the tornado flattened the factory. The factory had around 100 employees, including prison labor. The local congressman, James Comer, said that the factory had been “going 24/7” producing Christmastime candles. Initial reports indicate that, whatever the reason, the plant managers may have been reckless.

It seems that, after the initial warning sirens, employees were placed in hallways and bathrooms. Then, mistakenly thinking the danger was over, they sent the workers back to their work-stations. At least 15 of the workers requested that they be allowed to get to their homes, but no fewer than 5 witnesses say that their requests were rejected and that they were told that they would be fired if they left. McKayla Emery overheard managers telling four workers: “If you leave, you’re more than likely to be fired. I heard that with my own ears,” she said. Haley Conder said about 15 had asked to go home shortly after the first emergency alarm. Elijah Johnson said: “I asked to leave and they told me I’d be fired. ‘Even with the weather like this, you’re still going to fire me?’ ” The manager said, “Yes.” It appeared that some employees had left, so management took a roll call, so as to be able to take action against the miscreants.

Company officials deny the allegations. The plant manager, Michael Staten, was quoted by CBS News, providing a non-explanation: The “city has never seen such a tornado. However, we’ve had many tornado drills. Also, it’s just something that we never even imagined would have even happened.”

To the north, in Edwardsville, Illinois, 6 employees at an Amazon warehouse perished when the building collapsed. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is investigating reports that Amazon prohibited workers from leaving during tornadoes. One employee, Larry Viriden, messaged his girlfriend, “Well, I will be home after the storm.... Amazon won’t let us leave.” Twenty minutes later, he was dead.

COVID 19

Early, Though Authoritative, Danish Study of Omicron Variant Shows Very Rapid Transmission

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—A new, Danish study of the infectiousness of the newly identified Omicron variant of COVID-19 indicates a very fast spread and serious problems for those who have had two-dose vaccinations but not yet the booster. Earlier studies in the United Kingdom showed that Omicron infections doubled in two to three days and that only those vaccinated with the booster shot had significant efficacy against infection. The Statens Serum Institute in Copenhagen showed similar results, except that they had a doubling rate of two days and did not obtain results for individuals with booster shots. They are presently pushing for a large rise in boosters.

The Danish study is rather worrisome because of its likely accuracy. Denmark has a sophisticated surveillance system, with both large-scale testing of the population and a high level of samples involved in their genetic sequencing. This translates into an early alert system for new variants, absent in most of the world. And given the present situation with Omicron, they are submitting every positive result to genetic sequencing. This means their results have a great likelihood for a solid estimate of the spread of Omicron.

Even if early hopes, that the variant will have a low rate of serious cases, work out, a very high number of infections will generate more than enough cases to push the limits of hospitals. The Norwegian Institute of Public Health forecasts a huge increase in cases, from around 4,700/day to as many as 90,000-300,000 in about three weeks, with about 50-200 hospital admissions/day. On Dec. 13 Oslo announced indoor mask mandates, restrictions on social gatherings, and social distancing at organized events. In the United States, Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Dr. Christopher Murray at the University of Washington was frank: “I would expect that we’ll see Omicron in the U.S. becoming really the dominant strain end of the month or in January sometime,” he told the *New York Times* for its Dec. 13 coverage.

How To Prepare for a Pandemic: Close Your Hospitals

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—Prior to the onset of COVID-19, there was in the United States an epidemic of hospitals getting sick and dying. Between January 2013 and February 2020, the plug was pulled on 101 rural hospitals. The congressional watchdog agency, Government Accountability Office (GAO), published a December 2020 report, “[Rural Hospital Closures](#),” that studied the effect such clever financial moves had upon the ability of residents of rural America to get medical care. For average inpatient services, the median distance increased from 3.4 miles to 23.9 miles; for an emergency room, from 3.3 to 24.2 miles; for coronary care units, 4.5 to 35.1 miles; and for alcohol or drug abuse treatment, from 5.5 to 44.6 miles. The trips were seven to eight times longer! And it was also harder to find a physician, as their number dropped from 71.2 per 100,000 residents to 59.7.

Beckers Hospital Review reports that in 2020, there were 47 more hospitals (not just rural) closed for bankruptcy—and their Oct. 16, 2020 limit didn’t even cover the whole year. The next month, in November 2020, the American Hospital Association had issued a fact sheet entitled, “[COVID-19 Pandemic Results in Bankruptcies or Closures for Some Hospitals](#).” They described the impossible and unaddressed situation: the services that hospitals delivered were shunted aside; there were large costs

for COVID procedures and treatments; and more and more of their patients were uninsured. At that point, hospital beds per 1,000 people had fallen from the Hill-Burton standard of 4.5 to 2.8, compared to 3.2 in Italy, 6.1 in France, and 12.0 in South Korea. It has not gotten better in 2021, the second year of the pandemic. Beyond reckless disregard, there is depraved indifference.

On Dec. 3, 2021 *Beckers Hospital Review* covered a report by the University of North Carolina's Sheps Center for Health Services Research, showing some 60 million people, 1 in 5 Americans, live in rural areas and depend on their local hospitals for care. More than 70 of those hospitals have ended all services since 2011, according to the Sheps Center report on rural hospital closures. The number of rural hospital closures steadily increased over a four-year period, with a record-breaking 20 hospitals shutting down last year.

AFGHANISTAN

Eleven U.S. Ambassadors and Generals Tell Biden, U.S. Must Step Up with Aid for Afghanistan

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—The Atlantic Council posted a call on Dec. 13, entitled “[Afghanistan Is About To Collapse. Here’s What the U.S. Must Do About It](#),” signed by eight U.S. ambassadors and three generals with experience in Afghanistan, including Gen. David Petraeus. It observes the “humanitarian catastrophe” unfolding and the “cutoff of most external assistance and the freezing of most of Afghanistan’s monetary reserves, thereby eliminating 40% of the country’s gross domestic product and 75% of the government’s budget.” It further points to the collapse of the Kabul’s currency and the banking system, the “prolonged drought” and “a raging COVID-19 pandemic.” Finally, it cites the UN World Food Program’s estimate that “only 5% of Afghan households have sufficient food to eat each day.”

After describing the reluctance of the Biden administration and others to provide support that they claim helps the Taliban, the authors admit that there are means to get resources where they have to go, including proposals

by USAID directors and World Bank officials; so what is really needed now is political courage. “The longer decisions are postponed, the more difficult it will become to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe in the country and the deaths of many Afghans.” They “believe the United States has a reputational interest and a moral obligation” to provide aid, and they conclude: “We therefore recommend that the Biden administration expedite its consideration of these issues and, working in close coordination with key allies, come forward with tangible proposals to help stabilize the Afghan economy for discussion with other donors and ultimately presentation to the Taliban.”

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

German-Chinese Strategic Cooperation in Carmaking

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—The Chinese automaker BAIC has acquired 9.98% of shares in Germany’s Daimler corporation, bypassing the other Chinese shareholder, Geely, which holds 9.69%. This is to deepen a strategic alliance between Germans and Chinese which, in the case of BAIC and Daimler, has been active for ten years.

Daimler sells one-third of its production in China, and more than half of the profit is made in China as well. It’s not surprising that this alliance is attacked by certain circles as a sell-out to China, but Daimler’s management has repudiated that as “nonsense” and emphasized that working with the Chinese also secures jobs in Germany.

Germany’s BMW corporation, which so far has built the X5 SUV at its site in Spartanburg, South Carolina, will now also produce the vehicle in China. Already, BMW is selling more than a third of its production to the Chinese. BMW will furthermore take over 75% of the Chinese automaker Brilliance—becoming the first foreign company to control the majority of a Chinese automaker. Producing e-cars may become a focus of the new venture.

GREEN NEW DEAL

German Foreign Minister Baerbock's Announcement about Nord Stream 2 Drives Gas Prices Skyward

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—The cost of natural gas today rose to a dizzying \$1,400 per 1,000 cubic meters, following the Dec. 13 announcement by Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline could not be greenlighted for launch, to provide Russian gas to Europe via its Baltic submarine pipeline. Immediately, gas prices jumped around 10%. Baerbock claimed that the pipeline didn't comply with EU energy law—and then further threw out that tensions over Ukraine were “also a factor” in the delay. The reasoning? Berlin agrees with Washington that Russia cannot use the pipeline as a weapon against Ukraine. By 7 a.m. local time, Netherlands' TTF hub quoted January futures for natural gas at \$1,428. Translated for households, it amounts to \$138/MWh. “That should teach them Russians, all right!”

Inflation for Wholesale and Electricity Prices Highest in 40 Years

Dec. 14 (EIRNS)—Wholesale prices show the greatest increase in 40 years—some say in 60 years—for this past November as compared to 1992. No wonder that columns about the inflation in the 1923 Weimar Republic are appearing in news media, such as one on Dec. 12 in the *Hessische Niedersächsische Allgemeine Zeitung*, although it proclaims the “ECB is in control.”

The United States follow, with the Producer Price Index for November rising 9.6% year on year, but “intermediate producer goods” inflation was an explosive 26% for the year. This refers to producer goods which are only components of finished producer goods like machine tools, spinning machines used to make fibers, tractors, etc.; intermediate producer goods are still in the production chain, not yet finished to sell to retailers. So, much higher producer-goods inflation is working its way through the production chains than has come out yet at even the wholesale, or the retail end.

Record prices for electricity are also expected for German consumers from January on, when some utilities will demand up to 80% more per kilowatt-hour. What is driving the prices is the spot markets, which have driven the price of the megawatt-hour up from €38 in November 2020 to €1,992 euros yesterday.

The situation is similar in other European countries. In Belgium, for instance, a cartoon is circulating, depicting two beggars: The first asks, “How did you end up in poverty—Gambling? Drugs? Alcohol?” The other replies: “I left the light on.”