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EDITORIAL

In the Shadow of War, Walk in the Footsteps of Cusa

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—As of this past weekend’s June 10 symposium, [“The World Needs JFK’s Vision of Peace!”](#) the International Schiller Institute conference process has now provided the cultural vantage point

and “placement” for a dialogue between *real* Western civilization, represented by President John F. Kennedy’s [American University “Peace Speech,”](#) and the new direction of the “Global Majority,” as expressed in the Feb. 4, 2022, [“China-Russia Joint Statement on International Relations Entering a New Era.”](#) With Air Defender 23, the largest military maneuver in the history of the NATO Alliance, as the backdrop, the necessary “higher ground” deliberations must begin in earnest.

This week, for example, the second meeting of the newly-formed Schiller Institute International Peace Coalition will convene. On July 8-9, the Schiller Institute will hold an international conference in Europe. And in the period between now and July 4, the task of LaRouche co-thinkers in the United States is to find the “JFK Republicans,” “JFK Democrats.” and “JFK Independents” who will listen to and spread that American University speech throughout this nation. “Interventionists” must challenge all candidates running for the Presidency, and any elective office, to stand up, be a “profile in courage,” and endorse the JFK peace initiative outlook as the policy the U.S. should immediately follow with respect to Ukraine. (Now may, in a real sense, be the first time that the “Peace Speech” would and could be heard by the majority of the American people. At the time, in 1963, it was essentially suppressed.)

It was a year ago, July 3, 2022, that [Helga Zepp-LaRouche](#), founder and leader of the Schiller Institute, presented a revolutionary proposal for the immediate re-organization of the international monetary and economic system, to be led by a collaboration among Russia, China, India, and the United States with other nations. It was referred to as “a New Bretton Woods” system. It provoked discussion of various of Lyndon LaRouche’s economics works, particularly his [“Trade Without Currency.”](#) Reflect on what has happened, for example with the BRICS nations, over this past year. In less than a year, the Taliban have virtually wiped out the opium production in Afghanistan. (How might the Helga Zepp-LaRouche proposal, [“Operation Ibn Sina,”](#) be used in this new context?) This shows how fast the world can be changed by those with the determination and foresight to do so.

It is useful to remember the words of journalist [Patrick Lawrence](#), writing in February 2022, about the Russia-China Feb. 4 Memorandum. “It is always difficult to understand the present as history for the simple reason that we are living it and cannot see it historically without great effort. But we are living through a passage of the 21st century whose long-term significance is hard to overstate. The future is arriving, to put the point another way. Who would have guessed it would come to us by way of the ongoing morass in Ukraine....” The Belt and Road Initiative, the BRICS process, the “de-dollarization” assault on the international financial mafia and their International Assassination Bureau, presage “A global order most of humanity has awaited throughout the postwar decades—all seven of them. This is immensely positive.”

Instead of destruction, peace proposals, as in [JFK’s September 1963 UN proposal](#) for a joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. mission to the Moon, and as in Schiller Institute proposals such as the post-Afghanistan war proposal “Operation Ibn Sina,” must pioneer the deployment of new technologies and new physical principles in a creative war against the common aims of mankind, to eliminate poverty, famine, disease, and war itself. This means a reversal of the de-industrialization of Germany; this means a crash program for the production of modular nuclear power plants involving China, Russia, the United States and several other nations; this means an investment in hard and soft infrastructure, worldwide; this means an educational approach which, using the work of the great Ukrainian/Russian Vladimir Vernadsky, and his American counterpart Lyndon LaRouche, prepares humanity for Earth’s next fifty years.

Instead of merely using the popular, but erroneous approach of “mobilizing mass support to end the war,” which will not work, the world’s leadership is to be challenged from the top down, through the actions of handfuls of international citizens, to accept the intellectual responsibility to give birth to an entirely new world strategic and development architecture, or be incinerated. The Schiller Institute, through the insights of its founder, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, composed [Ten Principles](#) to provoke that discussion: “The new paradigm which will be characteristic of the new

epoch, and towards which the new global security and development architecture must be directed, therefore, must eliminate the concept of oligarchism for good, and proceed to organize the political order in such a way, that the true character of humanity as the creative species can be realized. Therefore, I suggest that the following principles must be discussed and if agreed upon be realized....”

Since she made that proposal last year, those who have responded have been drawn into a process that is clearly portrayed in Plato’s Socratic drama, *Symposium*. Zepp-LaRouche has been, in “real time,” using the method expressed in the late economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche’s writings, such as “[History As Science](#)” and “[Politics As Art](#),” to introduce the Classical form of diplomacy used by Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa to successfully convene the 1439 Council of Florence. Let it be remembered that Cusa also wrote at that time, in order to assist the deliberations of the discussants involved in that Council, the founding document of modern European science, *On Learned Ignorance* finished in February 1440. The Council lasted through 1441, and despite setbacks of varying degrees of severity, created the basis for the greatest explosion of human creativity in recorded history, the Renaissance. It now falls to us, to this generation to whom the torch has been passed, to walk in the shadow of Plato’s and Cusa’s Great Symposium. On this road less traveled humanity will find, not merely survival, but itself. Let the “higher peace” discussions now begin.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday June 13, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

NATO Air Defender 23 Exercise Now Underway

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—NATO’s Air Defender 23 exercise kicked off today in Germany. Deutsche Welle (DW) described it, not as the largest air

exercise since the end of the Cold War, but the largest in the history of the alliance. It will take place in three zones over Germany; one in the north of the country stretching out to the North Sea, one in the east and one in the south. It will also involve two air corridors: one from northern Germany to Estonia, and the second running from southern Germany to Romania.

For most Europeans who become conscious of the exercise, it will be in the form of irritating flight delays, as those air spaces will be closed to commercial air traffic for several hours each day. The delays as described by DW and London's *Independent*, don't sound huge—the diversion of flight paths by 70 miles or so and the lengthening of flights by just a few minutes—but will have a cascading effect on schedules, particularly of budget carriers such as Ryanair. “Regular air traffic is part of the challenge, as the skies above Europe are among the busiest flight paths in the world,” reports DW. “Aviation experts are watching to see whether civilian air traffic can continue to run mostly unaffected, in parallel with Air Defender 23.”

“Effectively, NATO is putting up roadblocks in the sky. Large swathes of airspace above Germany and neighboring countries will be closed to civil aircraft during the multinational exercise—which runs from Monday 12 to Thursday 22 June inclusive (though with the weekend of Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June off),” reports the *Independent*. “Civilian pilots must navigate around three main ‘clusters,’ where flying is restricted or forbidden at various altitudes. Each will be closed or heavily restricted for civilian traffic for several hours each day.”

Ukrainian Offensive Runs into Impenetrable Russian Defensive Lines

June 12 (EIRNS)—On June 10, the Russian Defense Ministry posted a video that perhaps has become emblematic of the Ukrainian offensive. It shows nine destroyed Bradley fighting vehicles and one Leopard tank (it shows at least two other destroyed armored vehicles as well, which could also be Bradleys, but are not as clearly identifiable). Since then, other imagery has appeared, showing more destroyed Ukrainian vehicles, including U.S.-supplied MAXX PRO armored trucks. Ukrainian forces are

reported to have lost 16 Bradleys, so far, out of the 109 that the U.S. has supplied.

That the Ukrainian armed forces are suffering heavy losses is not being disputed by Western corporate media, but they're trying "to put the best spin on it." CNN cites the Oryx open-source intelligence blog, saying that the Ukrainian side has lost 3,600 pieces of equipment since the beginning of the war, but claims that the Russians have lost 10,600.

Despite the loss of the Bradleys, Ukraine reports it has taken back at least three villages from Russian forces in fighting over the weekend, the CNN report continues. Ukraine's advance south, from the front-line town of Velyka Novosilka in the Donetsk region, now stretches somewhere between 5 and 10 km (3 to 6 miles), according to information released by Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar. This much seems to be true, as of yesterday afternoon (EDT), at least. "It reinforces the fact that they are moving forward," said retired Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, a member of CNN's stable of paid military analysts.

But do these small advances really amount to anything? Yesterday, the London *Telegraph* lamented the fact that the Russians have built a layered system of defensive lines, including prepared fighting positions, minefields and anti-tank obstacles stretching some 900 km along the front. The defenses, according to a Ukrainian intelligence officer, are constructed in a "three-line system," with varying levels of fortifications, the depths of which can exceed around 19 miles on some axes. "They have unbelievable trenches and unbelievable fortifications, it will be hard to break their lines of defense" Serhii, a commander in Ukraine's National Guards, told the *Telegraph*.

"The first line, along the line of contact, comprises the fighting positions made by the infantry," according to a recent report from the Royal United Services Institute. "The second constitutes properly made trenches as compared with fox holes in the first—and concrete firing posts where possible. Several obstacle belts are laid in front of these positions, usually formed with a 4m deep and 6m wide anti-tank ditch, dragons' teeth and

wire track entanglements. The depth of defense is usually 5 km from the first, and each belt of physical defenses tends to span between 700m and a kilometer, so that the entire obstacle series is covered by fire. The third line usually comprises full-back fighting positions and concealed areas for reserves, with positions dug for vehicles.”

According to reports from the front, the Ukrainian advance in the area south of Velyka Novosilka didn't even come close to breaking through the first line of Russian defenses, never mind the second or third. “Their struggles to advance so far have been against the screening line, which is pretty ominous for their prospects given the fact the Russian defensive lines are classic echelon defense and more fortified than what they have yet faced,” according to a report posted on the Intel Slava Z Telegram channel yesterday afternoon (EDT).

Federation Council Speaker Matvienko Believes Russia Will Face Hostile West for Some Time

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—It's high time that Russia understood it can only communicate with the West from a position of power, the nation's Federation Council Speaker Sen. Valentina Matvienko, said June 11 in a statement for Russia Day, the national holiday on June 12 celebrating the existence of Russia as a state. In remarks reported by RT, she said that Moscow does not see Western nations as traditional enemies; however, it will have to take into account that the U.S. and its allies will only listen to the language of force.

The West has always treated Russia as “something alien to its civilization,” Senator Matvienko said, in a lengthy statement published by the Russian Federation Council, as the Russian Senate is called. “Such a sentiment is deeply rooted in European society,” she said. Western nations have embarked on a path of “fierce confrontation” with Moscow, because it has always been a major obstacle to the West's claim to world domination.

“Most modern Western politicians and government officials do not even try to understand that the world is going through a major transformation,” Matvienko said, “and is nothing like it was some 20-25 years ago.”

Russia needs to become stronger in terms of its security, economy and technology, she continued, warning that the nation will face some “major challenges” in the future.

Russian Government of Kherson Gives Citizens Free Choice of Language

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Russian government of Kherson, formerly part of Ukraine, decided that there will be three official languages, Russian, Ukrainian and Crimean-Tatar. Governor Vladimir Saldo posted yesterday on Telegram that Russian citizens have a “right to the free choice of language in communication, upbringing, culture, and art.... Safeguarding people’s cultural, spiritual, and historical values” is a priority in Kherson and other parts of Russia.

Two months ago, the Russian Education Ministry announced, as reported in RT, that students in the four newly-joined regions—Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson, and Zaporozhye—can study Ukrainian in schools, either as their native language, or as an additional course. Also, a new Ukrainian-language textbook was produced for the elementary school level.

This is in stark contrast with the ideologues who staged the February 2014 coup in Kiev, who made it a top priority to abolish the use of Russian in all official business, as well as other minority languages. For anyone confused as to the true identity of those in control of the coup, which the Kiev regime calls the “Revolution of Dignity,” the assault on the Russian language sent a chilling message that whole sections of the population were no longer welcome. Then, in 2019, a law was passed, banning Russian from any part of the educational process; and earlier this year the historic university Kyiv-Mohyla Academy officially banned the use of Russian within its grounds.

China Suspicious That ‘Cuba Spy Base’ Story Ties to Blinken Visit

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—A June 11 *Global Times* editorial noted that the “spy balloon” hysteria in the United States led to the cancellation of Secretary of State Blinken’s reported February 2023 visit to China; and that

the specter of a Chinese surveillance base in Cuba was let loose by the *Wall Street Journal* on June 10 just eight days before Blinken’s rescheduled visit is to occur. “Rescheduled,” that is, in the U.S. media, which have reported the date of June 18; there has not been an official confirmation from China. The editors wrote, “This has been enough, to confirm the previous assumptions of many people, including us, that there is a direct and close relationship with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s reported China visit. It is obvious that some people in the U.S. want to spoil the possible visit again.”

The paper puts a period of the past two years as characterized by “strange stumbling blocks” in the United States, which always appear to create tension whenever relations might ease. These, it says, are not accidents or coincidences, but organized attacks “by certain political forces in the U.S.”

“Let’s see what kind of tricks Washington will come up with in the next few days,” *Global Times* concluded. “We might as well remain steadfast in the face of change. Since the U.S. has repeatedly emphasized the need to strengthen high-level communication with China, whether Blinken will visit China is a litmus test of U.S.’ sincerity and political maneuvering ability. Not only the Chinese people, but also the whole world are watching how the show Americans are playing will end.”

CCD Is Very Unhappy about Schiller Institute’s Zepp-LaRouche Leadership for Peace Movement

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The NATO-U.S. government-backed Ukrainian [Center for Countering Disinformation](#) (CCD) has once again singled out Schiller Institute founder and leader of Germany’s Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo) Helga Zepp-LaRouche as a special target on their hit list. On June 9, it issued a new “Infographic” against her, for allegedly “spreading pro-Russian narratives in the West.” The “Infographic” was issued less than two weeks after the CCD had included Zepp-LaRouche in their “digest” of alleged “pro-Russian” statements made by various Westerners in the last half of May.

Zepp-LaRouche has been listed at the top of all four CCD “Infoterrorists” centralized hit lists issued since July 2022. Before that, the CCD had published its first “Stop Infoterror” graphic singling her out, on May 28, 2022. She was immediately included on the Myrotvorets assassination list, on the sole basis of the CCD’s targeting.

Lula Urges for Mobilization against ‘Imminent’ Assange Extradition

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—“I view with concern the imminent possibility of Julian Assange being extradited” from Britain to the United States, Brazilian President [Lula da Silva](#) warned in a June 10 tweet, calling for “everyone” to mobilize to block such a move: “Assange did important work denouncing the illegitimate actions of one State against another. His imprisonment goes against democracy and freedom of the press. It is important that we all mobilize in his defense.”

On June 9, Justice Jonathan Swift of Britain’s High Court had rejected all eight grounds for Assange’s appeal seeking to block extradition to the United States. Assange’s wife, Stella, told reporters that Assange will file a renewed application for appeal at the High Court on June 13, which will proceed to a public hearing before two new High Court justices. She added: “We remain optimistic that we will prevail and that Julian will not be extradited to the United States, where he faces charges that could result in him spending the rest of his life in a maximum security prison for publishing true information that revealed war crimes committed by the U.S. government.”

Ukraine Names Nazi Andrij Melnyk as Ambassador to Brazil in Wild Provocation

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—In mid-May, the government of Ukraine provocatively named Deputy Foreign Ministry Andrij Melnyk, the disgraced former ambassador to Germany and defender of Hitler collaborator Stepan Bandera, as the new ambassador to Brazil. Melnyk was forced out as ambassador to Germany in July, 2022 after insulting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the German population with obscenity-laced public statements, in which he

defended Bandera as a “freedom fighter” and denying that he murdered thousands of Jews, Russians and Poles during World War II.

This is clearly a deployment against Brazil whose President Lula da Silva has been organizing internationally on behalf of his “club of peace” proposal and maintaining an “equidistant” position, as one daily put it, so as not to get roped into supporting one side or another in the Ukraine conflict. The U.S. and its trans-Atlantic NATO allies have targeted Brazil, along with India, Indonesia, and other “neutrals,” to try to drag them into the pro-Ukraine alliance.

Brazil has vulnerabilities that the NATO crowd will try to exploit. Its domestic situation is fragile, both economically and politically. Lula does not have broad congressional support and the right-wing, Nazi-leaning networks of former President Jair Bolsonaro, including some within the military, remain very active. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has demanded that more countries of the Global South support Ukraine. Melnyk is reportedly already in Brasilia and, according to several analysts, will be operating to swing the Brazilian government and public opinion, as well as some of Brazil’s neighbors, into the pro-Ukraine camp.

When Melnyk met on May 10 in Kiev with Lula’s chief foreign policy adviser, Celso Amorim, he tried to convince him that Brazil should join with other of Ukraine’s “allies” to find a way to guarantee a “lasting peace” for Ukraine, by supporting Zelenskyy’s “peace plan.” That plan demands that Russia withdraw all troops and return all the Ukrainian territory already incorporated into the Russian Federation. Amorim made no commitment, but the next day Brazil’s Foreign Ministry, Itamaraty, announced it had officially accepted Melnyk’s nomination as ambassador to Brazil. Reportedly, the decision to accept Melnyk had been made some time earlier.

In a May 13 commentary, the daily *Hora do Povo* minced no words on the Melnyk nomination, denouncing it as “a clear provocation against the Brazilian government.... Sending to Brazil [someone] whose position is sympathetic to Nazi war crimes of the Second World War and

misrepresents the killing of Jews during the occupation of Ukraine is an open affront to Brazilian diplomacy.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Industrial Shrinkage Is Not Just in Europe

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—“Manufacturing is sputtering in the world’s largest economies,” says a [CNN](#) story on Sunday, June 11, actually a collection of reports. “Factories in the U.S. and across the Eurozone reported a decline in new orders for manufacturing goods in May,” according to the data firm S&P Global. The U.S. manufacturing sector “fell into contraction territory in May,” despite escalating defense orders showing up in durable goods manufacturing. “The Institute for Supply Management showed the industry contracted for the seventh consecutive month in May, and at a faster pace than in the prior month.”

As for orders, the Commerce Department reported on June 5 that if military (“defense”) manufacturing orders are exempted, U.S. factory orders were down in four of the six months of 2022-2023, from November to April. The figures for durable goods in April were typical of the war economy taking over. April is one of just two months out of the last six when U.S. manufacturing production and orders did not contract. Durable goods orders in April were reported up 1.1%, a big “surprise” when another decline was expected. But this was entirely defense orders; without them, durable goods orders were down -0.6% in April.

(The industrial shrinkage in Europe referenced in the CNN article was reported in the *Alert* for June 11, 2023.)

The overall trans-Atlantic contraction in manufacturing and industry is being caused not only by shrinking credit; it is part and parcel of forced decoupling with China, through embargoes and trade restrictions, and these are cutting into China’s trade. China’s exports in May 7.5% were lower than May 2022. But China, rather than cutting credit and lending to try to allow banks to save themselves from insolvency, is taking measures,

through the People's Bank of China, to increase lending by state-owned banks, and is again starting BRI projects and trade financing abroad.

Interest rates were lowered June 12 by China's state-owned banks, just after the People's Bank of China had slightly lowered their required reserve ratio in order to incentivize lending.

Italian Political Leader Silvio Berlusconi Has Died

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Silvio Berlusconi died today at 86 years of age after having been hospitalized on Friday, June 9, officially for a planned check-up after his last therapy cycle (he suffered from leukemia and pneumonia). Berlusconi's condition rapidly deteriorated this morning.

Berlusconi's death will have political repercussions. His party, Forza Italia, does not have a successor, and many fear that it will split in several directions. This should not, but could, compromise the stability of the government coalition, which is composed of three parties: Fratelli d'Italia, Lega and Forza Italia. Under Berlusconi's leadership, Forza Italia has been a relative moderating force on the anti-Russian policy of the government.

The Ukraine's infamous Myrotvorets kill site has marked Berlusconi's photo with "liquidated." He was first targeted by Myrotvorets in 2015.

French Neo-Nazis Smuggle Weapons Back from Ukraine

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The problem of Western neo-Nazis that have flocked to Ukraine, and have begun showing up back in their home countries, is covered at some length in RT on June 10 in "[A Petri Dish for Fascism: How Ukraine Has Become a Magnet for Western Neo-Nazis](#)." It opens with the April 22, 2023 arrests of two French neo-Nazis, Guillaume Andreoni and Alan Vineron, as they arrived from Ukraine at Bercy bus station in Paris. They were arrested and convicted, not for their activities in Ukraine, but for attempting to smuggle weapons and munitions into France. Mediapart reports that France's General Directorate for Internal Security had the two on their radar screen, but it was only a random check at Customs that resulted in their detention.

RT writes that Andreoni, known by his military callsign “Bones,” is linked to the group known as Zouaves Paris (ZVP). ZVP has had dealings with the infamous Azov Regiment from no later than 2019, when the head of ZVP, Marc de Cacqueray-Valmenier, visited Azov training camps. ZVP has since been banned in France, evidently for their involvement in attacking demonstrators who had tried to disrupt one of Eric Zemmour’s campaign rallies. RT comments: “The ban did not particularly affect the neo-Nazis. Zouaves Paris supporters from the ‘Ouest Casual’ Telegram channel are still singing the praises of Ukrainian fighters and are using Nazi symbols and phrases alluding to various far-right movements in France and Germany. In their posts, they refer to Russian troops as ‘the Asian hordes of Soviet imperialism that have once again taken over Europe,’ and to Chechen units as ‘Putin’s Muslim dogs.’ They use similar duplicate channels to raise funds for the needs of militants and collaborate with neo-Nazis from other countries.”

Alan Vineron was in the French Chasseurs Alpains elite military unit before being dismissed when his neo-Nazi views came to light in media. Earlier this year, in Ukraine, he posted a photo on “TrackANaziMerc” Telegram, wrote RT, showing “three Russian soldiers shot in the head. The image shows that the soldiers were unarmed and killed at close range. After the photos of the execution began circulating online, Russia’s Investigative Committee announced that it would examine the crimes of French mercenaries against Russian prisoners of war in Ukraine.”

The feature story also covered cases of similar neo-Nazis from Italy, Norway and the United States.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Senate ‘Defense’ Bill for Another \$70 Billion, Really for Insolvency

June 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—A bipartisan warhawk group of 10 Senators has introduced legislation for a further supplemental defense budget for the Ukraine war, to add \$70 billion to the White House’s \$886 billion proposal for Fiscal Year 2024, which was agreed on in the recent “debt ceiling” deal.

That deal required primarily Democratic support to pass the Senate; Republican Senators objected, not to the budget deficits running at \$2 trillion/year, or more, since FY2021, but rather were angry that military spending was *much too low* to defeat Russia and surround China! The supplemental defense spending bill would put FY2024 military spending at least at \$950 billion, and it is very likely to advance.

Look, then, at federal spending in FY2021, in comparison to what this would mean for FY2024, to see the military-industrial “Ukraine war” complex seizing the economy, and threatening it with insolvency. (The FY2021 figures are from [KFF](#), the Kaiser Foundation, Figure 2.)

Expenditures for old age and healthcare insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security/Survivors/Disability, CHIPS, etc.) were \$2.7 trillion in FY2021; they would be roughly \$3 trillion in FY2024;

Interest on federal debt was \$400 billion in FY2021; it will be roughly \$1.1 trillion in FY2024;

Military (“defense”) expenditures were \$750 billion in FY2021; would be \$950 billion in FY2024;

“Non-defense discretionary” expenditures were roughly \$880 billion in FY2021; they would be \$780 billion in FY2024.

The federal deficit for the last 12 months ending in May has just been reported at $-\$2.1$ trillion, with the federal government’s tax revenues down 11% since May 2022.