

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- Creating an Opportunity from Calamity: Developing a Catalyst for a New Paradigm
- Helga Zepp-LaRouche Defends Belt and Road on CGTN ‘Dialogue’ Broadcast
- EU Commission and New German Chancellor Scholz Now Endorse Mandatory COVID Vaccinations
- Europe Plunging into Fourth Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic
- Lavrov Warns West’s Choice Is To Provide Guarantees to Russia, or Face Retaliatory Strikes
- U.S. and EU Holding High-Level Discussion Against China
- Russia and China in Dialogue on Coordinating Development of Independent IT Operating Systems
- Putin Warns NATO Missiles in Ukraine Will Cross Moscow’s Red Line
- Iran Submits Draft Texts on Sanctions and on Its Nuclear Activities to Vienna Talks
- World Bank Proposes Unfreezing Small Portion of Frozen Funds for Afghanistan
- New China-Built Railway To Open in Laos This Week
- Biden’s ‘Democracy Summit’ Is Making a Laughingstock of United States

EDITORIAL

Creating an Opportunity from Calamity: Developing a Catalyst for a New Paradigm

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—Russia and China are flanked to the west and the east by the threat of military conflict in the flashpoints of Ukraine and Taiwan. Warnings of an allegedly impending attack upon Ukraine by Russia are used as an excuse by NATO leaders to push for stationing troops and strategic weapons in Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin has made it clear that this would absolutely cross a red line for Russia. And the statement yesterday by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Japan and the U.S. would defend Taiwan militarily in the case of an invasion by the Chinese mainland was met with extremely forceful condemnation from the P.R.C.

On Nov. 30, Putin explained the threat posed to his country: “The Russian Federation also has certain apprehensions regarding the large-scale military exercises held near its border, including unscheduled ones, like the recent Black Sea drills during which strategic bombers, which are known to carry precision and possibly even nuclear weapons, made flights within 20 km of our border.” With NATO expanding towards Russia over the last 20 years, including the placement of supposedly defensive BMD systems in Poland and Romania, with equipment also capable of launching Tomahawk and other missiles, Putin warned that an absolute red line comes from missile threats in Ukraine. “I will repeat this once again that the issue concerns the possible deployment in the territory of Ukraine of strike systems with the flight time of 7-10 minutes to Moscow, or 5 minutes in the case of hypersonic systems....

“So, what should we do? We would need to create similar systems to be used against those who are threatening us.... We would need to create similar systems to be used against those who are threatening us. ... [W]e have held successful tests, and early next year we will put a new sea-

launched hypersonic missile with a maximum speed of Mach 9 on combat duty. The flight time to those who issue orders will also be 5 minutes....

“Why are we doing this?” Putin asked. “The creation of such threats for us is the red line.”

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the OSCE Foreign Ministers meeting in Stockholm that NATO’s involvement in Russia’s immediate vicinity (most notably Ukraine) would “have the most serious consequences and will force [Moscow] to take retaliatory measures.” The monster of armed conflict within Europe has returned.

At his Dec. 1 briefing China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin reminded Japan’s former Prime Minister Abe: “Taiwan is China’s sacred territory, where no external interference shall be tolerated. During its [1895-1945] colonial rule over Taiwan for half a century, Japan committed innumerable crimes, over which it has grave historical responsibilities to the Chinese people. No one should underestimate the strong resolve, determination and capability of the Chinese people to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Those who dare to pursue the old path of militarism and challenge our bottom line will find themselves on a collision course with the Chinese people!”

And it’s not solely war! The ideological drive that seeks to use the threat of military conflict to destabilize development and control the growth and sovereignty of nations independent of the Anglo-American slime mold is the same force promoting the explicitly Malthusian agenda of the Great Reset. A pandemic is running wild across much of the world, with vaccines unavailable in sufficient quantities to meet the demands and needs of lesser developed countries. But instead of solving the problem, and developing an in-depth health infrastructure, the world is told it must mobilize tens or even a hundred trillion dollars of investment to prevent relatively minor changes in the climate. Such an anti-human paradigm requires urgently to be replaced with a new paradigm of growth and development.

The deadly Covid pandemic itself provides an opportunity. By shining a light on our extreme lack of unpreparedness, both against emerging viruses

and in terms of health infrastructure overall, it points the way to using the need to have modern, advancing health care for all people, as a driver for shaping infrastructural, industrial, educational, and cultural development overall.

Join the [Schiller Institute](#) this Saturday, at 1 p.m. EST for a discussion of how the full development of health infrastructure can serve as a driver to sweep away anti-human Malthusianism and geopolitics, replacing it with an approach coherent with the dignity of each human individual.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday December 3, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

LAROUCHE

Helga Zepp-LaRouche Defends Belt and Road on CGTN 'Dialogue' Broadcast

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—Schiller Institute Chairwoman and founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche appeared today on China's CGTN TV broadcast "Dialogue, Ideas Matter," on which she discussed the eight years of the Belt and Road Initiative, taking up the example of the completion of the Laos rail corridor as the latest example, and counterposing the BRI with the Malthusian ideology expressed by Klaus Schwab on behalf of the networks represented at the World Economic Forum.

Zepp-LaRouche said that one of the best ways to understand the importance of the BRI would be to imagine what the world would be like had the BRI *not* been launched. As it completed the task of lifting its own population out of extreme poverty, China was able to export its development experience and capabilities to other countries able to benefit from projects and growth in their own countries.

The other guest on the segment, Shiran Illanperuma, a Sri Lankan analyst with Econsult Asia, pointed to the importance of the Hambantota

port to his nation, countering the debt-trap narrative according to which China upgraded the port for purposes of taking it over.

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche called the new Laos railroad to be one of the most exciting recent projects by virtue of its connecting, through Laos, the ASEAN community generally with China. This railroad is not simply a rail line, but rather a potential development corridor to spur growth.

The debt-trap narrative was again countered by a full explanation of Sri Lanka's national debt and the port itself. Only 10% of Sri Lanka's external debt is to China—the same percentage as the portion of Sri Lanka's debt owed to Japan or the Asian Development Bank. The port was leased for 99 years to a Chinese company in return for a large cash infusion that Sri Lanka used for general budgetary reasons, not specifically for debt repayment. Near the port, several industrial projects have also been built.

Asked to respond to criticisms of the BRI—that it is not transparent, that it is to expand China's influence, and that it is being used to expand China's international military presence—Zepp-LaRouche insisted that one must look at the ideology underlying the objections. For Klaus Schwab, for example, population and economic growth are themselves a problem, and countries that are currently underdeveloped should remain as underdeveloped sources for raw materials.

“We have reached a point where we need a complete change of the system, and I think the model China has offered is the best available on the planet,” she concluded.

COVID 19

EU Commission and New German Chancellor Scholz Now Endorse Mandatory COVID Vaccinations

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—It is time to “potentially think about mandatory vaccination within the European Union,” EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told journalists. “This needs discussion, this needs a common approach, but I think it's a discussion that has to be led.”

More definite than Von der Leyen was Olaf Scholz, who will assume his position as German Chancellor on Dec. 6. In several appearances on German television Wednesday night, Scholz said that he wants to make a mandatory vaccination against Covid-19 possible as soon as possible, and accelerate vaccinations in general to 1.25 million shots daily.

Scholz said that outgoing Health Minister Jens Spahn has failed to handle the pandemic, thus creating the current, alarming situation, with almost a third of Germans still not vaccinated. Scholz added that the success of a national vaccination campaign also depends on logistical preparation on the level of the 16 German states, the municipalities, and regional districts—this being something which the outgoing government failed to achieve or guarantee..

Scholz furthermore endorsed the expert view that vaccination certificates will not last beyond six months, which implies that a third shot will be necessary. He endorsed strict restrictions in the public sphere for unvaccinated citizens.

Europe Plunging into Fourth Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—*Counterpunch* magazine provided a quick overview of the 4th wave of COVID-19 assaulting Europe on Dec. 1. Highlights include Germany’s disaster, where official cases are up 58% over the last two weeks, with 58,000 new cases/day over the week from Nov. 22-28. Deaths are also up by 59%.

The ICUs have ten unvaccinated patients for every vaccinated one, despite the fact that there are more than two vaccinated individuals for every unvaccinated individual in the country. *Counterpunch* figures that even with 68% of the German population fully vaccinated, and 71% having received one dose, “German unvaccinated individuals have a risk of ending up in an ICU that is 21 times as high as their vaccinated counterparts.”

The United Kingdom’s new cases were up 20% last week over the previous week. The Netherlands, having gone from 13,800/day to 22,000/day, has entered a three-week partial lockdown as of Sunday, Nov.

28. Dutch hospitals are at full capacity, and some hospitals have stopped both chemotherapy and organ transplants.

Austria, meanwhile, has entered a 20-day lockdown, while Slovakia's is scheduled for two weeks. Ireland came out of a strict lockdown, watched a rise in cases, and is now planning to reimpose various measures. Finally, France's new daily cases are up to 21,800, their highest in three months, and almost four times as high as a month ago. Indoor masks are now mandatory, and booster shots are required five months after the initial shots.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Lavrov Warns West's Choice Is To Provide Guarantees to Russia, or Face Retaliatory Strikes

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated, yesterday, his statement from Nov. 18, that Russia no longer will accept verbal promises, but insists “on the elaboration of concrete agreements that would rule out any further eastward expansion of NATO and the deployment of weapons systems posing a threat to us in close proximity to Russia’s territory.”

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov followed up on that message today in his meetings at the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) meeting in Stockholm today.

“Everyone has heard President Putin and grown aware that our proposals are serious and now we are formulating them in writing,” Lavrov told reporters on the sidelines of the OSCE meeting, according to TASS.

“We are not saying that security guarantees must be given to us. We are saying, as President Putin emphasized yesterday, that collective guarantees ensuring the security of each other and all the participants in the pan-European process should be worked out. ... To my mind, everyone has heard President Putin and grown aware that our proposals are serious and now we are formulating them in writing....

“It is important to see how seriously the Western community will treat this and how sincerely they are interested in de-escalation and the cessation of attempts to unilaterally build up their advantages, including in the form of military infrastructure, the armed forces and hardware.”

Lavrov drew out the choice faced, in his bilateral meeting with Secretary of State Tony Blinken today. TASS reported in a separate wire, citing the Russian Foreign Ministry, that [Lavrov](#) had informed Blinken that “Ukraine’s involvement in the U.S. geopolitical games against the background of NATO’s deployment in the immediate vicinity of Russia’s borders ‘will have the most serious consequences’ and will force [Moscow] to take retaliatory measures to redress the military-strategic balance. Sergey Lavrov pointed out that ‘long-term security guarantees on our Western borders would be the alternative that should be considered as a pressing requirement,’ the ministry stressed.”

U.S. and EU Holding High-Level Discussion Against China

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—Two senior State Department officials gave a [background briefing](#) yesterday on U.S. expectations and planning for the two-day high-level meeting of the U.S. and EU on China taking place today and tomorrow, the second such meeting since this format was relaunched last March. The unnamed officials went through the familiar provocative litany of how Europe and the U.S. together will jointly enforce the rules-based international order and what they call “Western values,” and thus win “the geopolitical test of the 21st century ... from a position of strength,” countering China’s Belt and Road Initiative in the process. The officials announced that they expect the joint statement to be released at the meeting’s conclusion to be “robust,” and cover a broader range of topics, in more detail, than the (very general) statement released after the first meeting in May.

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and Secretary General of the EU’s foreign office, the European External Action Service (EEAS) Stefano Sannino are leading the show, and they will both speak at a Brookings Institution event at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 to lay out the conclusions of the

confab. It includes “Indo-Pacific strategy,” which will be the focus of the Dec. 3 discussion, with Sannino briefing Sherman on implementation of the EU’s recently released Indo-Pacific strategy and Sherman previewing “the United States’ forthcoming Indo-Pacific strategy.”

The officials reported some details on restructuring the State Department for this crusade against the People’s Republic of China. After the sharp confrontation between U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC’s Central Committee Yang Jiechi at their March 18-19 meeting in Anchorage, Sherman was tasked to focus on China and Indo-Pacific policy. She “began a fairly deliberate drumbeat of travel and engagements aimed largely to build support among our allies and partners” for this confrontation, they reported. Read that as bullying; the officials singled out her “very frank discussion” with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen over “our concerns regarding the P.R.C.’s military presence and the construction of facilities at Ream Naval Base” for particular mention.

Sherman also initiated a biweekly P.R.C. strategy group (“a grouping that brings together the department’s senior officials involved on China, in an effort to elevate and synchronize and coordinate our engagement across the board, including with allies and partners”), and built up the “get China” team initiated under previous administrations (think Pompeo). Today, 18 State Department “regional China officers” are deployed overseas to work “with our country teams to help assess the challenge and strengthen our advocacy” with “allies and partners” over containing China.

Russia and China in Dialogue on Coordinating Development of Independent IT Operating Systems

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—China’s *Global Times* daily chose to feature the agreement adopted to step up Russian-Chinese “in-depth cooperation on digital operating systems, including Russia’s Aurora and Huawei’s HarmonyOS and openEuler, charting a course to break the U.S. monopoly in the sector as the global urgency of developing homegrown technology

rises,” as a cutting edge of the 26th regular meeting between the Chinese and Russian Prime Ministers Li Keqiang and Mikhail Mishustin, held virtually on Nov. 30. Their agreement is reportedly included in the [Joint Communiqué](#) issued after the meeting.

Global Times expects that, between the Chinese central government’s determination to promote Huawei’s OS as a national industrial priority, “and the strength of the two countries, namely their big markets, combined with Russia’s world-renowned mathematics strength and China’s software ability,” the two countries “can speed up the process of breaking new ground in the sector,” much needed due to U.S. efforts to block the science and technology sectors of both nations.

The agenda of the meeting was much broader, covering “bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas such as telecommunications, network security, energy, agriculture and technology, to ramp up partnership between the two countries,” as well as their shared interest in strengthening multilateralism in international relations.

The [Chinese Foreign Ministry](#) statement on their meeting made clear that high-tech cooperation is key to their relations, with Li Keqiang emphasizing that both China and Russia “need to leverage complementary strengths, and keep the smooth flow of industries, technologies, resources and others between the two countries... [including] in basic research, transfer of scientific achievements and joint personnel training, and strengthen cooperation in cutting-edge industries such as big data and artificial intelligence.”

Putin Warns NATO Missiles in Ukraine Will Cross Moscow’s Red Line

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—Russians are warning that NATO military deployments into Ukraine—which is not covered by Article 5 of the NATO treaty—would cross Moscow’s red lines. At the plenary session of VTB’s “Russia Calling!” Investment Forum on Nov. 30, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) warned against the possibility of the alliance placing advanced weapons in Ukraine near the border with Russia, saying that such a deployment would be a red line. A Moscow-based investor had asked “You have mentioned

red lines in relations between Russia and Ukraine several times ... [which] is also connected with the West and NATO. Can you clarify ... what can be the consequences of crossing them? Should investors anticipate a potential deployment of Russian troops in Ukraine?”

Putin’s answer was very sobering. This is the context, he said, in which Russia had developed hypersonic weapons because of NATO forces advancing to its borders: “The point at issue is not to deploy or not to deploy troops, to fight or not to fight. The point at issue is to develop relations aimed at fairer and more stable development based on respect for the security interests of all the participants in international affairs....

“[T]he Russian Federation also has certain apprehensions regarding the large-scale military exercises held near its border, including unscheduled ones, like the recent Black Sea drills during which strategic bombers, which are known to carry precision and possibly even nuclear weapons, made flights within 20 km of our border. All this is posing a threat to us....

“Take a look at what has been going on for the past 20 years.... Why did they need to enlarge NATO towards our border? What for? Who can answer this question? There is no reasonable answer; it does not exist....

“However, despite all our warnings, conversations and requests, the [NATO] infrastructure ultimately approached our border. The situation went as far as the deployment of BMD systems in Poland and Romania, and the launchers that have been stationed there, the MK41, can be used to launch Tomahawk missiles and other strike systems. This is creating a threat to us—this is an obvious fact....

“You have asked about Ukraine and where the red lines run. They are, above all, the threats to us that can come from that territory. If the enlargement, the infrastructure continues to be enlarged—I have said this publicly, but you are businesspeople and may not have the time to follow this, I will repeat this once again that the issue concerns the possible deployment in the territory of Ukraine of strike systems with the flight time of 7-10 minutes to Moscow, or 5 minutes in the case of hypersonic systems. Just imagine that,” said the President, recalling that the questioner had said

that he lives in Moscow. “The flight time to Moscow is 5 minutes [for these systems],” Putin repeated.

He continued: “So, what should we do? We would need to create similar systems to be used against those who are threatening us. Can you imagine that? But we can do this already now, because we have held successful tests, and early next year we will put a new sea-launched hypersonic missile with a maximum speed of Mach 9 on combat duty. The flight time to those who issue orders will also be 5 minutes.

“Where are we heading? Why are we doing this? The creation of such threats for us is the red line. I hope it will not come to this. I hope that common sense and responsibility for one’s country and the international community will prevail after all.”

President Putin’s remarks and his open discussion with the audience are posted on the Kremlin website.

Iran Submits Draft Texts on Sanctions and on Its Nuclear Activities to Vienna Talks

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—The Vienna talks on restoring the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran seem to be moving at least somewhat forward despite the conflicting approaches of the U.S. and Iran and the attempts at sabotage by Israel.

Tehran’s negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani told Iranian media this morning that Iran had provided two proposed texts, one with Iran’s views on removal of sanctions and the other on the issue of Iran’s nuclear actions, reported the official news agency IRNA. “Of course, they need to check the texts that we have provided to them. If they are ready to continue the talks, we are in Vienna to continue the talks,” said Bagheri Kani. He warned the other negotiating teams not to let the approaches of the players outside the talks negatively affect the negotiations, likely a reference to Israel.

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

World Bank Proposes Unfreezing Small Portion of Frozen Funds for Afghanistan

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—According to an exclusive story by Reuters on Nov. 29, the World Bank’s board of directors decided on Nov. 30 to recommend to the 30-plus donors to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), administered by the World Bank, that \$280 million of the \$1.5 billion in the fund be unfrozen, and transferred to the World Food Program and UNICEF for humanitarian work in Afghanistan. The donors, however, must approve the transfer before even this small sum can be distributed, and that includes the ARTF’s largest donor: the United States.

The decision by the World Bank board does not challenge the full financial sanctions paradigm being deployed against Afghanistan, nor is \$280 million sufficient to save Afghanistan’s people, but it puts the spotlight on the Biden administration’s continued refusal to end its policy of genocide against the Afghan people and nation. The world should know tomorrow if the U.S. allows even this small crack in its sanctions, as Reuters reports that the donors are “expected to meet” on Dec. 3 to decide on the World Bank’s recommendation.

If the aid is approved, the issue of U.S. sanctions remains an obstacle, even though this humanitarian aid would be channeled to foreign humanitarian entities, not the interim Afghan government. The U.S. Treasury, which is holding \$9 billion in funds belonging to Afghanistan, has provided “comfort letters” assuring banks that they can process humanitarian transactions for Afghanistan, but banks remain wary of being accused of breaking sanctions, so aid agencies have had difficulties getting transactions approved even for such basic supplies as food and medicine, as Reuters reports.

Others are mobilizing. Saudi Arabia, as the chair of the Islamic Summit, yesterday called for the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and “pathways for an urgent humanitarian response,” because regional and

world peace and stability is threatened by the crisis, WION news reported. The Pakistani government quickly offered to host the meeting on Dec. 17 in Islamabad, with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressing his confidence “that the OIC member states will endorse this offer.”

Even a Bloomberg Opinion editor, [Ruth Pollard](#), issued a warning that if the Biden administration does not lift the sanctions soon, it will be responsible for the kind of mass death which resulted from the Obama administration’s refusal to lift sanctions on Somalia in the face of famine:

“Let’s hope there are some U.S. officials with long memories still walking the halls of power—long enough to recall what happened in Somalia in 2010 and 2011 when it was in the grip of a drought and an insurgency from the al-Qaeda-aligned militant Islamist group al-Shabab. Back then, aid groups warned that without urgent action, including the lifting of U.S. sanctions, there would be a famine. The sanctions stayed in place and the country slipped into famine. The Obama administration lifted the restrictions soon after but by then, many thousands had already died and ultimately, nearly 260,000 perished,” she wrote.

New China-Built Railway To Open in Laos This Week

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—In Laos, a 414-km railroad is due to open on Dec. 3. It was built by China in five years as part of its Belt and Road Initiative. The \$6 billion project was 70% funded by China and 30% by Laos, and it is operated by the joint Lao-China Railway Co. A passenger ticket to travel the full route is reported to cost the equivalent of \$13.30. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Laotian President Thongloun Sisoulith will jointly witness its official opening.

The north-south railroad connects Laos to China on the north and Thailand on the south end. From the northern Laotian border station of Boten to Kunming in China is 595 km. To the south, there is a change of gauge at the border with Thailand, which has an existing one-meter gauge railroad to Bangkok and the Gulf of Thailand. Work is underway to upgrade the Thai rail to standard gauge.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Biden's 'Democracy Summit' Is Making a Laughingstock of United States

Dec. 2 (EIRNS)—“American democracy used to be attractive to the world, but its appeal has faded greatly. Washington convening a democracy summit is like an old woman releasing a list of past wooers and admirers, and forces everyone to admit it and praise her. 😏” the famously frank Editor-in-Chief of China’s *Global Times* Hu Xijin tweeted on Nov. 28.

The statement issued yesterday by [Russia’s Foreign Ministry](#) on the Dec. 8-9 “Democracy Summit” in Washington, D.C., is likewise blistering, highlighting the notorious “human rights” and “democratic” track record and reputation of the United States, Great Britain, and the EU member states hosting “this strange event.”

Cited are well-known examples of censorship, lies, electoral manipulation, corporate and intelligence agency control over Western media, mass imprisonment, and promotion of “ultra-liberal values and practices” by this small group of nations claiming “to lead the world in advancing the cause of democracy and human rights.” Included are statements banned by U.S. social media, such as that it is “understandable” that millions of Americans question the results of the 2020 U.S. presidential election, and that long imprisonment of dozens who protested those results on Jan. 6 is repression, not democracy.

Not forgotten, is the listing of the “aggressive actions on the world stage under the banner of ‘promoting democracy,’ ” the more than a dozen military interventions and attempts at “regime change” over the past 30 years, which have led to only “chaos and destruction ... bloody wars and national tragedies in the countries that fell victim to this policy.

But as the Foreign Ministry writes, “we can continue quoting examples revealing the hypocrisy at the core of this ‘summit for democracy.’ But is it necessary?”

Saner heads in the United States and Europe might want to remember that Russia, as the statement reminds, “is a world power with Eurasian and European roots to its identity,” and it “will closely follow the ‘summit for democracy.’ ”

It were better to take Russia up on its offer, made again in the statement posted to the Foreign Ministry website, to together foster “a dialogue between cultures, religions and civilizations as an important instrument for forming a unifying agenda and building up trust in relations between states and societies ... to recognize in practice the principle of the sovereign equality of states, which is fixed in the UN Charter. It embodies the foundation for a democratic ordering of the world that the U.S. and its allies do not accept.”