

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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

- U.S. Fusion Power Breakthrough—But No Fusion Program!
- Only Russian Military Warnings Get Attention in Ukraine
- Green New Deal and a Worldwide Financial Crash
- At the Engine of the Inflation, Still No Sign of Taper
- Afghans Living on ‘Stale Bread and Tea’
- *Washington Post* Says Biden Seeking Rundown of U.S. Military Exercises Aimed at Russia
- Biden Makes Fed Appointments
- Further Signs FLOP26 Was a Hit to the Green Deal
- Russians Preparing for Second Putin-Biden Summit Meeting
- Pfizer Vaccine Co-Developer Says Yearly Vaccinations Necessary

## EDITORIAL

### **U.S. Fusion Power Breakthrough—But No Fusion Program!**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—President John F. Kennedy was assassinated 58 years ago today. It is a national and human tragedy that since JFK was killed, the United States, in six decades, has not embarked on any scientific crash program to achieve any fundamentally new frontier of technology, beyond those already underway under his Presidency. Those were the human exploration of Earth-Moon space; the investigation of bio-medical properties of nuclear isotopes; the expansion of revolutionary TVA water control systems to new Western dams with the intention to build the North American Water and Power Alliance “great project.”

The first of these three was allowed to atrophy; the last of the three was allowed to die with President Kennedy and its other movers, his brother Robert F. Kennedy and Sen. Frank Moss.

As Lyndon LaRouche and his movement have never stopped explaining, the next frontiers for crash programs are dominated by fusion power, super-hot plasma technologies for industry, and nuclear propulsion for space travel. We will never go beyond the Earth-Moon system without it. And developing the Earth-Moon system and then going beyond it, with nuclear and fusion propulsion for really rapid space travel, will be the “driver” for the scientific and technological breakthroughs of this century.

For years cynics have said, “Fusion power is always 30 years away.” No! Any fundamental technological breakthrough has always been 30 years away, because we have had “leaders” who’d rather fight small wars and sleep on any real technological progress. The laser-industrial revolution promised in the 1970s already? Didn’t happen. Our Strategic Defense Initiative? Never got funded. Magnetic levitation rail corridors? Not here. You’ll find them in China. Computer controlled five-axle machine tools? Fast cargo systems between ports and rail? Didn’t try for them. Hypersonic vehicles? We slept on it for a decade or so. And now small modular nuclear reactors are the latest technological breakthrough to stay always “10-20 years away.”

On behalf of a great deal of mankind, American and European leaders have been snoring the loud sleep of technological inertia for decades.

But it has been clear all along that the most important frontier for science, for higher education, for the capacities of the human species, is fusion energy.

Now the U.S. Congress has been told, on Nov. 17, that in August, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory—almost as a secondary by-product to their military program—approached achievement of a “burning” or self-sustaining fusion plasma, where the energy produced by the fusion process would exceed that required to ignite it.

Joel Dejean, an engineer and a LaRouche Independent candidate for Congress in Houston, commented on the hearing: “What happened in August is that they achieved, with an input energy of 1.9 megajoules ... the output energy from the fusion that occurred was 1.3 megajoules, or 70% of breakeven. And during the time when the tablet was contained by its inertia, and when the fusion was occurring between the deuterium and tritium, which are isotopes of hydrogen, that experiment generated over 10 quadrillion watts of power, in that few hundredths of a nanosecond. Now, this is a significant breakthrough, and they’re proceeding with upgrades in the experiments, to actually get to breakeven, where you get more power out than you put into the experiment.”

But as [Dr. Tammy Ma](#), a plasma physicist at Lawrence Livermore’s National Ignition Facility, made clear in her testimony before the House Energy Subcommittee hearing, its near-achievement of laser fusion breakeven came in the course of its ongoing scientific research into the performance of nuclear warheads. She explained that the Livermore National Lab has no development program for inertial confinement fusion energy, the technology where the breakthrough was seen!

Other reports are that the scientific work itself might soon have been shut down, had it not made this surprising leap forward in fusion research—a wake-up call, an opportunity to be seized!

In fact the entire nation has no fusion program with serious national funds, 41 years after Congress claimed it was going to fund such a breakthrough-oriented program in the Magnetic Fusion Energy Engineering Act of 1980.

More young students are getting motivated to work on fusion energy. But they have to look to small private companies, with proprietary funding, whose work is so proprietary it’s almost classified, although there appear to be some breakthroughs being achieved there as well.

This must be changed. Wake up! Fusion can be achieved! Our scientific understanding of the basic energetic process of the universe can be revolutionized through the combination of crash programs for fusion and

NASA's Moon-Mars mission. [Lyndon LaRouche](#) put down this urgent revolution as one of his “four economic laws to save the nation” in a June 8, 2014 policy paper. And that is what it must be.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday November 23, 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

### Only Russian Military Warnings Get Attention in Ukraine

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—Carnegie Moscow Center head [Dmitri Trenin](#) begins his article on U.S.-Russia relations with on twist on a popular Russian joke, “Those who do not want to listen to Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will have to deal with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.” Trenin is deadly serious.

After President Vladimir Putin's speech at the Valdai Club meeting on Oct. 21, Putin followed it on Nov. 13 with a wide-ranging interview on Russian TV, where he discussed Ukraine, Belarus, NATO and the United States, Trenin reports. Putin appeared Nov. 18 at an expanded gathering of Russian Foreign Ministry senior officials, and also held more private, confidential discussions. But in [President Putin](#)'s public remarks, Trenin identifies that he reportedly made several important new points. The most interesting and intriguing concerned Russia's adversaries: The United States; its NATO allies, and clients such as Ukraine. Trenin reports that Putin said: “Our recent warnings have had a certain effect: Tensions have arisen there, anyway.... It is important for them to remain in this state for as long as possible, so that it does not occur to them to stage some kind of conflict ... we do not need a new conflict.”

Putin did not mean diplomatic warnings, Trenin writes. Diplomacy is de facto paralyzed in Russia's relations with Ukraine, NATO, the European

Union's leading powers, such as Germany and France, and with the United States, as far as Ukraine is concerned. Trenin adds, "The Kremlin has at this point completely written off Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as a negotiating partner."

Exasperated with the Europeans' de facto siding with Kyiv against Moscow on the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, the Foreign Ministry published diplomatic correspondence between its head, Sergey Lavrov, and his counterparts in Paris and Berlin; according to Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, recent exchanges on Ukraine with visiting U.S. Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland produced zero results and zero understanding in Washington of Moscow's arguments. The Kremlin also responded to NATO's expulsion of Russian officers attached to Moscow's mission to Brussels by severing all ties with NATO.

In early 2021, the Russian Defense Ministry held a massive exercise along the entire length of its border with Ukraine. Russian movements were visible, and clearly conveyed it might not be a drill. Dmitry Kozak, Kremlin point man on Donbas and Kyiv relations repeated Putin's earlier warning that a Ukrainian attempt to retake the breakaway Donetsk and Luhansk regions—as then-Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's failed adventure in South Ossetia in 2008—would mean the end of the present Ukrainian state. U.S. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, engaged in direct consultations with Gen. Valery Gerasimov, chief of the Russian General Staff. Finally President Biden invited Putin to a meeting in Geneva, which agreed to resumption of U.S.-Russian strategic stability talks.

Yet, no de-escalation occurred with regard to Ukraine, the Black Sea region, and Eastern Europe. Trenin observes that Russia has recently stopped exporting coal to Ukraine, extended economic preferences to the Donbas region, and allowed "half a million of its newly acquired citizens in Donbas to vote in the September elections to the State Duma."

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### Green New Deal and a Worldwide Financial Crash

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—David Messler, a four-decade veteran of the American oil services industry, judged in a long study in OilPrice.com Nov. 16 that the severe plunge in fossil fuel investment which briefly led into the 2008 global financial crash, has been repeated since 2016 in a much deeper and more long-lasting drop in investment. He is tracking the effects of the Green Deal, and his headline asks, “[Could the Energy Crunch Lead to a Worldwide Financial Crisis?](#)”

Messler’s basic thesis is that the 2008 crash was triggered by a huge bubble in unaffordable real estate following a sharp drop in fossil fuel investment and production. He reports that now “Investment and spending on fossil fuels has declined precipitously from 2014.” Spending on oil extraction investment worldwide, which averaged roughly \$700 billion/year for the first half of the last decade, suddenly fell to \$450 billion/year from 2016-19, and to \$300 billion/year in 2020-21. World liquid fuels production has dropped from 102 million barrels/day in 2018-19 to 91 million now, according to the Energy Information Administration. Global coal power generation dropped by 14% in the past five years, by 10% in the past two years alone. In fact, total worldwide investment in the entire energy sector dropped in 2016-20 in China, Europe, Southeast Asia, and South America; was unchanged in the United States; and rose slightly in India only by a tripling of investment in “renewables.”

Simultaneous with this cutting of energy production, investment, and productivity, Messler reports, has been the money-printing deluge. “We are now seeing an asset pricing bubble on a scale never before seen. In the span of a year and a half, the [U.S.] money supply has increased from \$4.5 trillion to nearly \$20 trillion, and there is more coming. The recently passed Infrastructure Plan will bring another couple of trillion of direct and ancillary spending. The Build Back Better plan waiting in the wings for a reconciliation passage will add another \$2.0 to \$3.5 trillion to the Fed’s balance sheet.”

Messler goes on, as another repeating factor from the 2008 crash, “In the past 5-years the median U.S. home price has climbed 68% with much of that coming since the first of the year” 2021. This despite the fact that—contrary to endless media stories during the pandemic—the share of American households moving continued its 45-year-long drop in 2020. Only 6% of households moved in that year, indicating that, not only were they not “running to the exurbs,” they were more stuck than ever. The median household cannot now afford the median home.

The engineer concludes, “there is a reasonable case that a financial crisis could result from the lack of upstream investment we have discussed so far, and the continuing bashing of the industry that is vital to maintaining our standards of living.... The hour is very late in terms of being able to respond to a prolonged price spike, or physical shortage of oil.”

### **At the Engine of the Inflation, Still No Sign of Taper**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—Two weeks after the Nov. 3 announcement by the Federal Reserve’s Chair Jerome Powell that the Fed was beginning a \$15 billion/month “taper” in its quantitative easing, or QE program, the New York Federal Reserve bank is continuing to increase the pace of securities purchases under QE. Again in the week ending Wednesday, Nov. 17, according to the Federal Reserve’s weekly H4.1 Report of assets, Fed holdings of securities increased by roughly \$74 billion, with the increase coming primarily in holdings of mortgage-backed securities. Thus the Fed has bought about \$110 billion of new securities from the primary dealer banks in the two weeks since Powell’s announcement, hardly a reduction from the \$120 billion/month pace of QE maintained since early March of 2020. Federal Reserve assets have moved upward in those two weeks by about \$40 billion to \$8.42 trillion.

There has, moreover, been no sign since the Nov. 3 announcement, of an upward move in the interest rates of Treasury securities. This indicates that large investors believe that if there is any Fed “taper,” it will be a brief one, and that if anything the Fed will resume pushing interest rates down in

the middle-term future. This could indicate widespread anticipation of an economic breakdown.

### **Afghans Living on ‘Stale Bread and Tea’**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—The Quincy Institute’s [Adam Weinstein](#) spoke out Nov. 21 on the situation in Afghanistan, in an interview with the Turkish English-language TV network, TRT World, published Nov. 12: “The international community is actively creating a preventable famine. Food scarcity now exists country-wide and people are living on stale bread and tea. Mass starvation will soon follow....

“The cessation of direct foreign aid to the government is happening because few countries want to be seen as helping the Taliban.... Attaching conditions to food aid essentially pins the international community against the Taliban in a game of chicken using human lives as collateral. It is grotesque.”

Weinstein has warned that if the current situation persists, thousands of Afghans will starve to death this winter and the country will become unstable which will only worsen the human rights situation. And “It will also present a golden opportunity for groups like Daesh-K,” he stressed.

## **UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC**

### ***Washington Post* Says Biden Seeking Rundown of U.S. Military Exercises Aimed at Russia**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—According to a Nov. 20 report in the [Washington Post](#), the White House has asked the Pentagon for a rundown of exercises the U.S. military has taken in recent years in Europe to (ostensibly) deter Russia, as well as the justification for each mission. It seems that there’s concern among some White House officials that U.S./NATO military missions near Russia are running on autopilot without any real consideration of the potential geopolitical consequences. The bulk of the exercises in Europe focus on protecting against Russia, but the request, which hadn’t been previously reported, also related to other U.S. military

activities on the continent, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, the *Post* reports further.

The *Post* goes on to report that the scope of U.S. military missions in Europe has grown in recent years, leading to a slew of exercises, observation flights and maritime operations all aimed at warding off alleged Russian adventurism. Some outside experts, the *Post* says, have raised concerns that some of the missions have become too provocative and should be reevaluated, even though the senior Biden administration official said the White House isn't seeking the information from the Pentagon with a view to curtailing the activities. Many of those missions have included Ukraine and Georgia even though the U.S. has no treaty commitments to defend those countries. Putin pointed out in his extended Foreign Policy Board speech on Nov. 18 that U.S. bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons have come within 20 km of Russia's borders in such exercises.

The White House hasn't made any decision to modify or curtail the U.S. military's missions and exercises in Europe, the senior Biden administration official stressed. "The important thing is that all we are looking for is basic information from the last several years of where we have done exercises, how many troops were involved, what policy objectives they were in support of," the senior administration official said, describing the request from the White House National Security Council to the Pentagon, which was sent earlier this year, as "regular order."

The senior official said the amount of information about such missions coming from the Defense Department to the White House when Biden took office was nowhere near what it was during the Obama administration, and the National Security Council was looking to restore the information flow.

### **Biden Makes Fed Appointments**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—President Joe Biden named Jerome Powell for another term as chair of the Federal Reserve. Fed Governor Lael Brainard is made vice-chair, replacing Richard Clarida who is the third senior Fed official to leave after revelations of "insider" trading. Big banks are all very happy

with Powell. But as vice-chair Brainard will be able to push Fed-backed “green bonds” à la ECB, and partner with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to make the Financial Stability Oversight Committee a totally green driver of the banking system.

### **Further Signs FLOP26 Was a Hit to the Green Deal**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—Both Connecticut and Massachusetts have withdrawn from the climate pact of cities and states represented at “FLOP26” by Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee but steered by Sir Michael Bloomberg through his anti-nation Global Cities Alliance. Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker withdrew his state on Nov. 18 from the multi-state pact to reduce carbon emissions in transportation, according to the WBUR, the public media radio station affiliated with NPR. Baker said he is withdrawing from the Transportation and Climate Initiative because not enough states are committed to it. “The Baker-Polito Administration always maintained the commonwealth would only move forward with TCI if multiple states committed, and, as that does not exist, the transportation climate initiative is no longer the best solution for the commonwealth’s transportation and environmental needs,” Baker’s press secretary said.

Connecticut had withdrawn on Nov. 17, the day before, citing high gas prices, reported the *Boston Herald*.

## **NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER**

### **Russians Preparing for Second Putin-Biden Summit Meeting**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—A second meeting, either in person or virtually, between U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to be in the works. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in an interview on Rossiya-1 TV on Nov. 21 that thorough preparation for the next Putin-Biden meeting is now underway. “In order for the meeting to take place, thorough preparation is needed,” TASS quoted him. The agenda is huge.” Ryabkov also pointed out that the U.S. was making a number of claims against Russia, in particular, on the

Ukrainian issue. “[We] need to explain [to] them in detail what is happening, and we are doing this,” Ryabkov said. On Nov. 19, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there was no certainty about when talks would take place, either before the New Year or afterward.

## COVID 19

### **Pfizer Vaccine Co-Developer Says Yearly Vaccinations Necessary**

Nov. 22 (EIRNS)—Ugur Sahin, CEO of BioNTech, the co-developer of the Pfizer vaccine, told Germany’s *Bild* newspaper Nov. 21 that people all over the world will need to get a jab of the COVID vaccine once a year, and praised the quality of its booster shot, RT reported today. Sahin said the vaccine co-developed by his company was “very effective.” Asked if people should worry about “breakthrough infections”—when those vaccinated with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine still developed COVID-19 symptoms—he dismissed that concern, saying that the jab offers a “90% protection” against cases that require intensive care in those older than five.

Sahin added that a “very high” level of protection against severe illness lasts for up to nine months, but explained that this level of protection starts decreasing “from the fourth month.” To maintain the protection, he strongly pushed for booster shots, arguing that they would not just restore levels of antibodies, but also would potentially help “to break ... chains of infection.” He encouraged doctors to be as pragmatic as possible, and “not to send people home unvaccinated even though they could be vaccinated without any problems.” In the future, people might need to get booster shots once a year, he believes. He said that he expects protection from a booster shot to “last longer” than the initial immunity one acquires after getting two doses of the vaccine.

While the Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna are making huge profits, largely from the Covid vaccine—an estimated \$65,000 every minute, reports RT, citing the People’s Vaccine Alliance (PVA), a coalition demanding wider access to vaccines, the chief executives of the three appear to be considering the “rich world” only, as if the unvaccinated

billions of humans did not exist. PVA estimates the three companies are expected to earn a combined profit of \$34 billion this year alone (which roughly translates into \$93.5 million per day). “Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna have used their monopolies to prioritize the most profitable contracts with the richest governments, leaving low-income countries out in the cold,” said Maaza Seyoum of the African Alliance and People’s Vaccine Alliance Africa.