

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Choose Your Poison? U.S. Is Being Ravaged by *Both* the Pandemic and the Collapsing Economy

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—If you believe the popular gossip that you have to choose between bringing the economy to a halt to stop the COVID-19 pandemic, or “reopening” the economy and letting the disease rip, you’re being snookered—once again—by the British financial crowd that brought you *both* catastrophes in the first place: the City of London and their Wall Street sidekicks. As Lyndon LaRouche warned four decades ago, and the LaRouche organization restated explicitly as early as February 2020, the then-emerging pandemic was caused by 50 years of catastrophic British Empire economic policies which had brought the world’s potential relative population density well below the actual population on the planet. The solution to *both* crises does not lie in some trade-off between the two, but in a single global solution to both, revolving around the application of LaRouche’s famous Four Laws. This was elaborated by *EIR* in its May 2020 [“The LaRouche Plan To Reopen the U.S. Economy: The World Needs 1.5 Billion New, Productive Jobs.”](#)

Consider a recent indication of the problem. As China was announcing that it had fully eliminated absolute poverty in the country, and that they had created 11 million new urban jobs in the period January-November of 2020 (meeting their annual target a month early), a new study of poverty in the U.S. reported that the poverty rate rose sharply in the five months from June to November, from 9.3% to 11.7%, with 7.8 million more Americans falling below the poverty line. According to the study released Dec. 16, of the 7.8 million new poor, about 2.3 million are children under 17.

Continuing widespread unemployment, combined with the end of government support in late July, were cited as the two key causes of the problem. The average unemployment payment was over \$900 per week from March to the end of July, and after that it dropped by two-thirds,

down to an average \$300 per week. The federal poverty line is \$26,200 for a family of four.

James X. Sullivan, a professor at the University of Notre Dame, who co-authored the study with Bruce D. Meyer, a professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, stated: "We've seen a continual rise in poverty every month since June." Predictably, things are worse for Blacks (up 3.1 percentage points, or 1.4 million people since June) and for Americans with high school degrees or less (up 5.1 percentage points, or 5.2 million people). These are the people who tend to work in low-wage restaurant, travel and retail positions. The GAO recently reported that many states now pay gig workers and self-employed workers unemployment aid that is below the poverty level.

Back to China: President Xi Jinping stated that innovation is the "primary driving force" of the economy. And Xinhua, in reporting on the November data, stated: "China needs scientific and technological solutions, more than ever, to boost economic and social development. In the first 11 months, the output of high-tech manufacturing sectors increased 6.4%, markedly outpacing the overall growth in industrial output."

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Chang'e-5 Prepares for Future Manned Missions

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—Leading officials from the China National Space Administration (CNSA) held a press briefing to report on the results of the Chang'e-5 mission, which was deemed a resounding success. But the press was obviously very curious about where China would go in space after this, and, of course, when they would send people to the Moon.

Wu Yanhua, the Vice Administrator of the CNSA, said that Chang'e-5 was the result of over a decade of development. The 23-day mission now enters the stage of scientific investigation. An entire institute has been built to conduct, store and study the samples and a back-up storage facility has been constructed in Shaoshan in Hunan province, the birthplace of Mao

Zedong, because of his push for a Chinese space program in the 1950s (“Two Bombs and One Satellite,” was the motto in the 1950s). Hu Hao, the chief designer of the China Lunar Exploration Stage 3, said that the handling of the samples also represents a new capability for China which would aid in its technological advancement. “We need to explore more in space in order to advance our technology,” Hu said. The samples would also be available to research and university institutions for their study. And in the not too distant future, some of the samples would be placed on view in the National Museum of China.

Wu also congratulated the countries that had worked with China on the program, including European Space Agency, Namibia, Argentina, and Pakistan. In reply to a question about China’s cooperation, he said that China was prepared to work with “like-minded institutions” in other countries. At one point Reuters asked Wu specifically about cooperation with the U.S. Wu then discussed the restrictions of the Wolf Amendment, which prevented cooperation with the U.S. and at one point, he said that cooperation had to be based on equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

He also stated that the series of Chang’e missions had involved thousands of institutions and tens of thousands of scientists and engineers. He said that through this process China had now developed a tremendous capability for space development in the interest of mankind. “Our goal will be different from the U.S. and the Soviet Union,” Wu said. “In those days, it became something of a ‘star wars.’ We want to conduct scientific research and serve mankind.”

The Chang’e-5 mission was more complicated than it had to be for a simple sample return. But Wu indicated that the technologies that were used would also be a vital element for a human exploration mission. As China’s newly named “space ambassador,” Prof. Yang Yuguang, succinctly put it: “We did it that way not because it was easy, but because it was hard,” echoing the words of John F. Kennedy in his 1962 speech to Rice University, announcing the manned Moon program that became Apollo.

Wu Yunhua was also queried about China's future space plans and he was not reticent in talking about them. "We have a number of plans for the coming years, some of which have been made public," he said. In exploration, they still have Chang'e-3 and Chang'e-6, which were backup missions If other missions failed. They would now be utilized in some form, perhaps to do a sample return from the South Pole of the Moon. Then there is Chang'e-7 and -8, which he said would be used to work with other countries in exploring the possibilities of establishing a lunar space center.

There were also other planetary missions, he affirmed. Tianwen-1 is already on its way to Mars and is scheduled to land on Mars in May 2021. There are also three other planetary missions, an asteroid-return mission, a Mars return mission, and a Jupiter exploration mission. In terms of manned space, there will be 11 missions in the next two years, utilizing the space station, including the launch of a core capsule with 4 people.

And there will also be innovation in China's launch capability. Long March 5 which carried the Chang'e-5 (labeled the "Fat Five mission") will continue to be utilized. China also announced the development of a new Long March-8 rocket which will fly at the end of December. With the Long March series of 5, 6, 7 and 8, Wu said "we will be working with a whole system of new generation rockets to meet the need of the space missions

China is also making progress in its satellite department, Wu declared, which created the basic infrastructure for the Chang'e-5 mission. These include navigation satellites, communications satellites and remote-sensing satellites. "These are an important staple for our civilian space program," Wu said, "and an important supply-side component of our country's development." Wu also said that space innovation needed science satellites, and pointed to China's collaboration with Italy on the development of an electromagnetic satellite, which will help improve earthquake predictions.

NASA Congratulates China on Chang'e-5 Mission

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA's science director, tweeted a congratulatory message to China yesterday after the return of the capsule.

“These samples will help reveal secrets of our Earth-Moon system and gain new insights about the history of our Solar System,” he said.

Xinhua has an excited editorial today, which likewise focuses on the role of space science in revealing the “secrets of the universe.”

“No matter how far China goes into space, it always stays true to its original target—unveiling the secrets of the universe and contributing to humanity’s peaceful use of space. The exploration is not for commercial purposes, but for international scientific research. Humanity shall explore the Moon together, as it will eventually involve large projects requiring international cooperation.

“The mission will lay an important foundation for China’s future manned lunar landing and deep space exploration. Next, China plans to explore the South Pole of the Moon for water-ice resources and is considering an initiative for joint efforts to build an international lunar research station.

“No one knows what risks Earth will face in the future, and a ‘backup planet’ is yet to be found. It might be too remote to think about problems like a doomsday crisis and interstellar migration, but it will be promising for humanity if competent and responsible countries, including China, continue to develop space technologies and promote space exploration.”

Trump Issues Directive for Development of Nuclear Space Propulsion

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—Just as Chang’e-5 returns to Earth, President Donald Trump issued the [Space Policy Directive # 6](#) (“Memorandum on the National Strategy for Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion”) on Dec. 16, calling for the development of space nuclear power, considering it as “vital to maintaining and advancing United States dominance and strategic leadership in space.” The measure creates the notion of Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion (SNPP). It also highlights the importance of the technology in other fields and calls for the various departments of

government to support the initiative and try to find ways of utilizing the technology for general commercial benefit.

The issue was also mentioned at the meeting of the National Space Council, chaired by Vice President Pence on Dec. 16, but there was no coverage of the discussion in the statement that was released after the meeting. The directive also states that the issue had been mentioned in August 2019 in a National Security Memorandum. The Directive also calls for the establishment of a fission capability on the Moon by the middle or end of the 2020s that is scalable to 40kWe or more in order to “support sustained lunar presence and exploration of Mars.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Schiller Institute: Exonerate LaRouche! Assange, Snowden Pardons Can Expose 2016-2020 Russiagate Hoax

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—*The following are the first two paragraphs of a statement issued today by the Schiller Institute. A finalized version will be available on Dec. 18.*

The possibility that President Donald Trump may pardon WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, now being slowly killed in a London prison, especially in the aftermath of the recent resignation of Attorney General William Barr, has raised a tantalizing question. Will the Russiagate “computer hack that never was” so central to the present Assange incarceration and torture finally be brought to light if he is released from prison? Will the criminal conspiracy against the US Presidency that involved “Five Eyes” intelligence agencies, and City of London/Wall Street financial interests, be exposed, through the declassification and release of all documents essential to revealing the Russiagate hoax? Will these documents include relevant portions of the tens of thousands of pages Ty Clevenger has learned the FBI has just acknowledged to exist in their files that are relevant to his request in a FOIA lawsuit regarding information on Seth Rich? Will we perhaps finally see the release of these and other

documents through the firings and/or resignations of CIA Director Gina Haspel and FBI Director Christopher Wray, following William Barr?

Swift, unexpected and unorthodox action by the President could now be the only way to reveal the true nature, and reverse the present outcome of the 2020 Presidential election. By allowing justice, through such actions, to provide a platform for Snowden, an ailing Assange, National Security Agency whistleblower William Binney and others, to reveal how the surveillance state has nearly mortally wounded the American electoral process just as it has manipulated and fixed elections throughout the planet for decades—regardless of where the chips may fall—Donald Trump could yet be inaugurated President in January 2021. If the truth of the campaigns of 2016 and 2020 were finally told to the American people, whoever does that will have earned their undying support. And that truthful explanation will instantly reveal the bloody face of the Obama-Bush Administrations joined at the hip through their advocacy of war as the primary tool of diplomacy.

Assange's Fiancée Appeals for Trump To Pardon Him, Save His Life, on Tucker Carlson Show

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—Appearing last night on Fox News' [Tucker Carlson](#) show, Julian Assange's fiancée Stella Moris appealed to President Donald Trump to pardon the WikiLeaks founder, to prevent him from “falling into the hands of the Deep State.” She urged Trump to take action on this before he leaves the White House—on the assumption that happens, or, certainly before Jan. 20, either way.

Assange is being held at the maximum security Belmarsh prison in London, where he is being slowly murdered under brutal conditions. On Jan. 4, a judge will rule on whether he should be extradited to the U.S. to stand trial for leaking classified military cables related to the Iraq and Afghan wars. Should he be extradited, Moris warned, Assange “will be in the hands of the Deep State.” He would be tried in Alexandria, Virginia—home to the infamous “Rocket Docket” in which Lyndon LaRouche and several associates were railroaded in 1988—and would never receive a fair

trial. Most of the jury pool there, she pointed out, are made up of people who live in Virginia and work for the federal government, “or for security contractors and the Deep State.” Those who are pushing for Assange’s extradition and subsequent U.S. trial, Moris added, “want to end the First Amendment, because they see the First Amendment as a threat to their malfeasance, their abuse being exposed.”

Moris asked Carlson, “does the President want that to be his legacy or does he want to ensure that the First Amendment survives his [Assange’s] trial—survives by pardoning him and not have his trial?” Carlson made a point of referring to Assange as “effectively a journalist,” rather than someone who had committed an egregious crime, and told Moris that “for what it’s worth, I think the President probably does want to pardon him,” but, “I think there are a lot of sinister people who don’t want the pardon to happen.”

Ken Starr Asserts Vote Fraud Cases Dismissed Only on Procedural Grounds, Not Their Merits

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—In testimony yesterday before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), former Solicitor General and Judge [Ken Starr](#) made an obvious point—that courts that have dismissed vote fraud cases have done so solely on procedural grounds, rather than on their merits. “The presidential election of 2020 with its unprecedented feature of the use of mail-in ballots has given rise to a number of questions that deserve to be answered,” Starr said, and that “the Constitution is very clear that it is the prerogative of the state legislatures to determine what these (election) rules and laws are. And that was, I must say, flagrantly violated in Pennsylvania and perhaps elsewhere as well,” according to Christian Broadcast Network.

Starr also explained that there had been historical concerns over mail-in ballots, dating as far back as the time of Abraham Lincoln. In history, he observed, “there was, in fact, a campaign to deprive Abraham Lincoln of the Presidency and that was through the use of mail-in ballots.” It is

therefore wise, he concluded,, “to pause and reflect on how we can, in fact, (uphold) that bedrock feature of integrity in the election process.”

The backdrop to yesterday’s hearings is the continuing fight by state legislatures and Republican officials at both the federal, state and local level to expose the extent of vote fraud. Many of these Republican officials pushed back after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), publicly congratulated Joe Biden and Kamala Harris following the Electoral College vote on Dec. 14. “The Electoral College has spoken!” he proclaimed. In contrast, Alabama Congressman Mo Brooks told Newsmax Dec. 15, “we can fight for our republic or we could surrender. I am not a member of the surrender caucus. If you fight, you have a chance for success. There is no republic in America if elections can be stolen.” Brooks said he’d be happy, “along with a significant number of my colleagues, to object” in the House meeting on Jan. 6. The question, he went on, is whether there is also a Senator willing “to stand up and fight for their country.”

Neither House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) nor House Republican Whip Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) have congratulated Biden or Harris, preferring to remain silent.

COVID-19

COVID Hospitalizations in U.S. Straining Capacity

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—The United States set yet another new record on Dec. 16 with over 247,000 new official cases and over 3,600 deaths. The COVID Tracking Project reports more than 113,000 COVID hospitalizations. The increased travel during Thanksgiving and ‘COVID weariness’ is being blamed, and there is great trepidation if such behavior continues during the Christmas holidays. Various governors in the Northeast and Midwest have issued a video, stating: “If you are planning to travel or gather with other households for the holidays—we urge you to reconsider. Just one infection can cause an outbreak in your community,

which could overwhelm our hospitals and put you and your loved ones at risk.”

The stress on hospitals is already showing up in southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas, and many other states. The *Los Angeles Times* reports that ICU capacity in Southern California went from 97.3% to 98.3% between Dec. 14 and 15. The stress on the ICUs has caused: “Canceling scheduled surgeries; keeping critically ill patients in emergency rooms; sending ICU patients into stepdown units earlier; training nurses from elsewhere in hospitals to help with intensive care; and increasing the numbers of patients an ICU nurse can treat.” Cathy Chidester, the director of the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services reports that “emergency rooms are so crowded that some ambulances have been forced to wait as long as six hours to offload patients.” Field hospitals for non-ICU patients are being opened, so far, in Costa Mesa, Porterville, Sacramento and Imperial. However, worse than the physical capacity is the lack of enough staffing. Instead of two or three patients for each ICU nurse, they are now caring for as much as seven patients apiece—a situation which can only increase the chances for mistakes.

Otherwise, Los Angeles County’s health services director Dr. Christina Ghaly said that their surge came from Thanksgiving holiday commingling, and she expects worse from Christmas: “We are still in for a very rough few weeks at least, and potentially through January.” Neighboring Orange County health officials reported 319 ICU patients, a jump of more than 100 cases in one day. They’ve taken the unprecedented action of stopping hospitals from diverting ambulances to other hospitals—as almost every hospital is trying to send patients to every other hospital. Basically, the overflow valve has been turned off, and hospitals have no recourse but to deal with the massive pressures individually. In El Paso County, Texas, Judge Ricardo Samaniego imposed curfews of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., for Dec. 23-26 and Dec. 30-Jan. 4.

By HHS data, one-third of the population live in areas where hospitals are now over 85% usage of ICU beds. The Dallas region is at 93%.

A 'Hanukkah Miracle' for the Pfizer Vaccine

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—It turns out that the vials of Pfizer vaccine, which are stated to contain five doses each, have been found by hospitals and pharmacies to frequently allow six or even seven doses. The FDA stated on Dec. 16 that healthcare providers can use all the liquid in each vial of Pfizer vaccine: “At this time, given the public health emergency, FDA is advising that it is acceptable to use every full dose obtainable (the sixth, or possibly even a seventh) from each vial, pending resolution of the issue.”

Pfizer’s plan, which involves getting 20 million doses distributed in December, is based upon 4 million vials. The FDA ruling means that as much as 24-28 million doses may be available this month for residents of long-term care facilities and frontline health care workers. The *Times of Israel* coverage hailed it as a “Hanukkah miracle”—in the tradition of the celebrated holy oil which was only enough for one day for the Temple Menorah’s candle, but which inexplicably lasted the eight days it took to get more oil. The Pfizer news came on the sixth day of Hanukkah.

Global Times Asks, How Would the West React If China Were the One with 300,000 COVID Deaths?

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—An embittered *Global Times* published an editorial Dec. 15, taking up the fact that U.S. COVID-19 deaths have now exceeded 300,000 people. The British Empire’s U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and others in the Trump Administration have all attacked China for the absurd construct that they “exported” the COVID-19 pandemic to the rest of the world, and at the same time have launched hostile destabilization operations against the country.

“The death toll from the coronavirus surpassed 300,000 in the U.S. on Monday. This is truly a staggering number.... We want to ask, what would happen if the situation is reversed—what if China were the one where

300,000 people died from the coronavirus, and the U.S. and most other Western countries had the pandemic under control?”

The editorial noted with irony: “They would also accuse Chinese society of being barbaric and madly deny the legitimacy of the Communist Party of China’s governance. They would tout Western civilization and declare that the result of the COVID-19 fight is a comprehensive victory of the Western system and culture. They would also brand China’s political system as ‘incurably bad.’ Once any sign of unrest occurs in China, they will openly endorse the rioters at the official level, and tout the unrest as an ‘uprising of people who are in desperation.’... The U.S. may think of exerting military pressure on China and launching a general offensive against China’s political system, trying to defeat China at one stroke and fundamentally eliminate the so-called threat brought about by China’s rise.”

The editorial concluded: “In short, if China were the country with the worst response and greatest loss in the global disaster, the U.S. and the West would have launched a tsunami-level ideological attack against China.... Is there a bottom line for the political shamelessness of some American elites? Will they eventually be punished for what they have been doing?”

Moderna Vaccine Passes FDA’s Independent Advisory Board 20-0.

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—Moderna’s mRNA vaccine passed the FDA’s independent board of advisors today, by a vote of 20-0, with 1 abstention. The vaccine can be stored in normal freezers until ready for use, and then in refrigerators for 30 days. However, Moderna’s trial showed a somewhat greater likelihood to induce side effects than the Pfizer vaccine. About one in six of the vaccine recipients had significant reactions, though not on the level requiring hospitalization.

Germany’s Saxony Considering Total Pandemic Lockdown

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—According to leaks in the media, the Saxon state government in Germany is considering a total lockdown and shutdown for municipalities with a disproportionately high rate of daily new infections.

All roads leading into those municipalities would be blocked and controlled by police; the nightly curfew already decreed would be extended to daytime—with the exception of a small daily window to allow people to shop. Companies would have to stop production as well, sending their workforce home. The increased new measures may be imposed even before Christmas and stay in place until at least Jan. 10.

Saxony has shown considerably higher new infection rates than the other German states during the past few weeks, but the entire country is facing an escalating crisis. AP reported today that “the country recorded 180 virus infections per 100,000 residents over the last seven days, a new high and significantly more than the 149 per 100,000 reported a week ago by the Robert Koch Institute, the country’s disease control center. It also vastly exceeded its previous daily death toll, with Germany’s 16 states reporting that 952 more people had died of the virus, the institute said. That was far greater than the previous daily record set Friday, Dec. 11, of 598 deaths, although it included two days of figures.

Across the country, new, very strict lockdown measures have been announced, which however are supported by 80% of the population, according to AP.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

British Empire’s GCHQ and Strategic Command Paint China as the Enemy To Defeat

Dec. 17 (EIRNS)—Chatham House, the premier policymaking institute for British imperial interests, also known as the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA), hosted the country’s leading cyber-security, military and intelligence experts at a Dec. 14 seminar, whose primary purpose was to attack China as the greatest strategic threat facing the British. The webinar, for members only, entitled “[Digital Competition: The U.K.’s Cyber Response to Online and Real World Threats](#),” featured Jeremy Fleming, the head of General Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), the equivalent of the U.S. National Security Agency; Gen. Sir

Patrick Sanders, head of the U.K. Strategic Command; Dr. Patricia Lewis, the director of Chatham House's International Security Program, and Dr. Robin Niblett, Chatham House Director and Chief Executive.

China is “the greatest strategic threat facing this country,” bellowed Sanders, claiming that while Britain was engaged in “nation-building and counterinsurgency in the Middle East, the Chinese got ahead of us with technology. They have exploited things like 5G, military capabilities in space, hypersonics and autonomy. It represents a paradigm shift in their approach to warfare,” Sputnik reported him as saying. Discussion also focused on the challenges facing the U.K.'s National Cyber Force, a joint MI6-military effort to combat the growing threat of “hostile states, terrorists and criminals online,” the *Daily Mail* reported Dec. 14.

Fleming warned that Chinese hackers were targeting vaccine suppliers and hospitals, hoping to capitalize on the uncertainty created by the COVID crisis as well as Brexit. As there are differences between the West and China regarding information access and privacy issues, Fleming insisted, these represent a serious online risk. “We need to work out how to work with China: where we want to [and] where it is sovereign only, or only with allies because of security issues.”